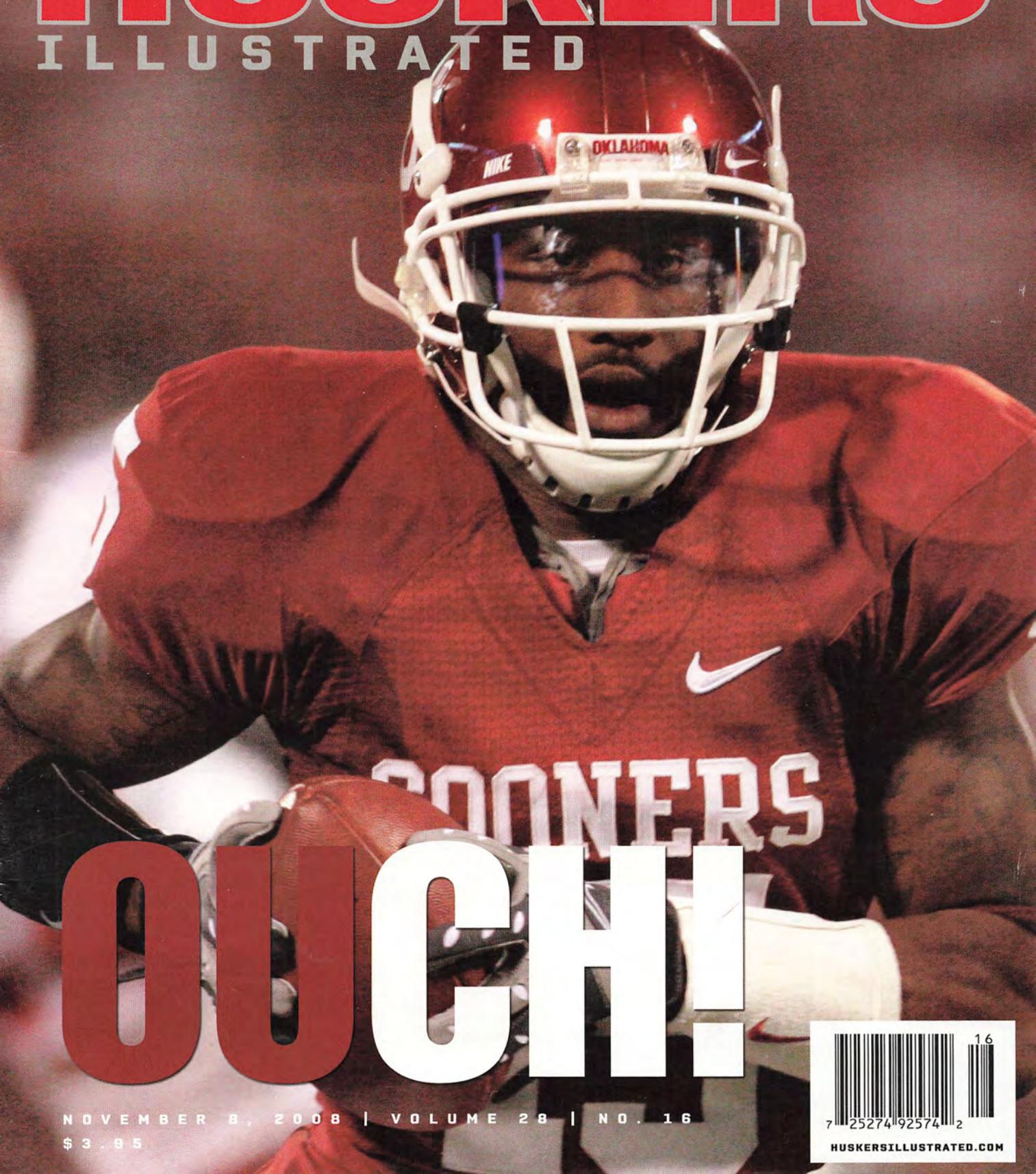


KANSAS PREVIEW



THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

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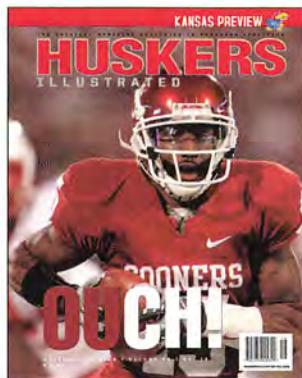
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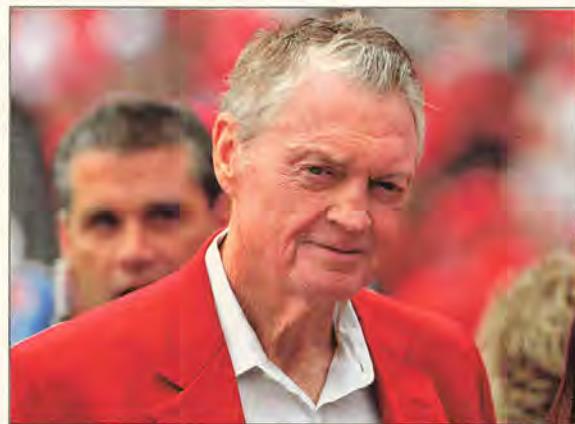
ON THE COVER

Dominique Franks intercepts and returns Nebraska's opening play for a touchdown (its second TD in four seconds) as Oklahoma roiled to a 35-0 lead in the first quarter and a 62-28 win. *Photo by Scott Bruhn*



NEXT ISSUE

The Kansas recap/Kansas State preview will be mailed on Monday, Nov. 10. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.



“WALK-ONS ARE

an important part of our Nebraska football tradition, and they will continue to be.”

TOM OSBORNE

WALK-ON TRADITION

Over his 25-year tenure as Nebraska's head coach, **TOM OSBORNE** estimates that approximately 40 percent of the Huskers' restricted travel rosters were represented by walk-ons.

“We always held back a number of scholarships to award to walk-ons as they moved up the depth chart and became starters or valuable backups,” he said. “Walk-ons are an important part of our Nebraska football tradition, and they will continue to be.”

The Nebraska Walk-On Club, as presented by the Extra Point Club is the newest way to support this proud Nebraska tradition. By becoming a member, you will receive early invitations to Walk-On Club Luncheons, an exclusive invitation to a spring practice event and monthly e-newsletters in season with exclusive features about current and former walk-ons. Plus, if you join before Nov. 20, you'll be entered to win a pair of tickets to the Nebraska-Colorado football game.

More importantly, for just \$100 you'll be part of this proud program.

Visit Huskers.com or call the Athletic Development Office at 402-472-2367 for more information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV. 20 WALK-ON CLUB LUNCHEON
with keynote speaker Marvin Sanders,
Husker Secondary Coach

FRIGHT NIGHT IN NORMAN

Huskers knocked out early by Sooners



THIS GAME WAS OVER before it started. It's hard to imagine a team getting off to a worse start than Nebraska did in its 62-28 loss against Oklahoma on Saturday.

This storied rivalry became a nationally televised train wreck just minutes after kickoff.

The tone of the game was set when Nebraska won the toss and deferred, allowing Oklahoma to return the opening kick 62 yards and score just seven plays later.

In a game where Nebraska needed to run clock and play keep away from the Sooners, the Huskers instead trailed 7-0 before they touched the ball.

To make matters worse, Bob Stoops' accurately predicted the Huskers' first play from scrimmage (which they've also run in three previous games) and Dominique Franks jumped the route and put the Huskers down 14-0.

The horror show continued on the next drive as Joe Ganz connected completed a pass to Dreu Young, only to watch him fumble the ball. After another quick Oklahoma score, the train was officially off the tracks.

Two plays later, with 9:32 remaining in the first quarter, the Huskers had their third turnover, despite just running only six plays.

Three turnovers on the first six plays. I still can't believe it. While many expected

the Sooners to be too much for the Huskers to handle, I think it's fair to say that nobody predicted Oklahoma would lead 35-0 after the first quarter – the most points ever allowed by Nebraska in a quarter.

In a game where the Huskers had nothing to lose, Nebraska opened the game looking overwhelmed and unprepared. Offensively, Nebraska finished with 418 yards, but by the time it got on track, it was buried by its four total turnovers.

We should have seen this coming. It shouldn't come as a surprise after the team's reported poor week of practice. The Huskers had a bad week of practice prior to the Missouri and Virginia Tech and had similar results.

The key now is how Nebraska responds. Nebraska needs just one win to be bowl eligible with three games remaining. On paper it should win two of those games and could win all three.

In order to win all three, the Husker defense must find a way to slow Kansas' high-octane offense. The Huskers must then finish strong against struggling Kansas State and Colorado. With a 3-0 finish, the Huskers could then wash away this game and enjoy the Insight or Sun Bowl. **N**

Send us your comments or story ideas to huskersillustrated@gmail.com.

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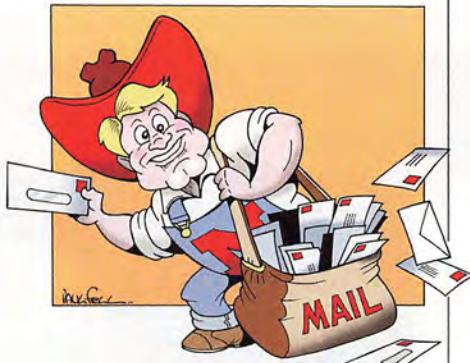
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Big Red Mailbag

SEND US YOUR LETTERS!! Huskers Illustrated loves to hear from its readers. Have an opinion to share about a story in this issue? Send us a letter. Have an opinion about the Huskers? Drop us a line. Want to share a photo from your last Husker game? We'll take it. **IF WE PRINT YOUR LETTER, WE'LL SEND YOU A SPECIAL HUSKER GIFT!** Send digital photos and letters to huskersillustrated@gmail.com and your regular snapshots and letters to HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED, 7755 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 68512.



RECRUITING HUSKER FANS

I'm a University of Nebraska alum and faithful Husker football fan currently living in Bangor, Maine. My dental office reception room has Huskers Illustrated, Nebraskaland Magazine and the Nebraska Football Media Guide.

I wanted my staff to experience Nebraska football, so we traveled to Lincoln, where I combined a dental class with a game in 2006. Some

staff members questioned the excursion and patients wanted to know what was in Nebraska.

Now, as you can see, they are avid Nebraska fans and follow the Big Red football team. They still talk about the game they saw and the experience they had in Lincoln.

There is no place like Nebraska!

Sincerely,

Gregory P. Kramer, DMD

Bangor, Maine



Cornhead Corner

definition: CORNHEAD, corn·head – noun

1. a person with an extreme and often unusual enthusiasm or zeal for the University of Nebraska Cornhusker athletic program. Side effects may manifest in abnormal collections of Husker memorabilia, obsessive desires to attend Nebraska sporting events and paranoid delusions that every season should result in a national championship. This compulsive behavior can be contagious and is often a serious irritant for fans of the University of Missouri or Colorado.

DOUG MENTZER of North Platte has been a Husker fan since 1962 when he was 6 years old. Since then he has attended nearly 200 games at Memorial Stadium and has been a season ticket holder since 1986. While he also is a baseball season ticket holder and attends volleyball and basketball games, his passion is football.



Doug is one of the charter subscribers to *Huskers Illustrated* from 1979 when it was *Nebraska Inside Cornhusker Sports*. Items in his collection include at least 3,000 Husker cards and every Husker Media Guide since 1970.

"My goal now is to attend as many out of town Big 12 games as possible," he said. "I also am looking forward to attending more Husker bowl games before I get sprinkled over Memorial Stadium."

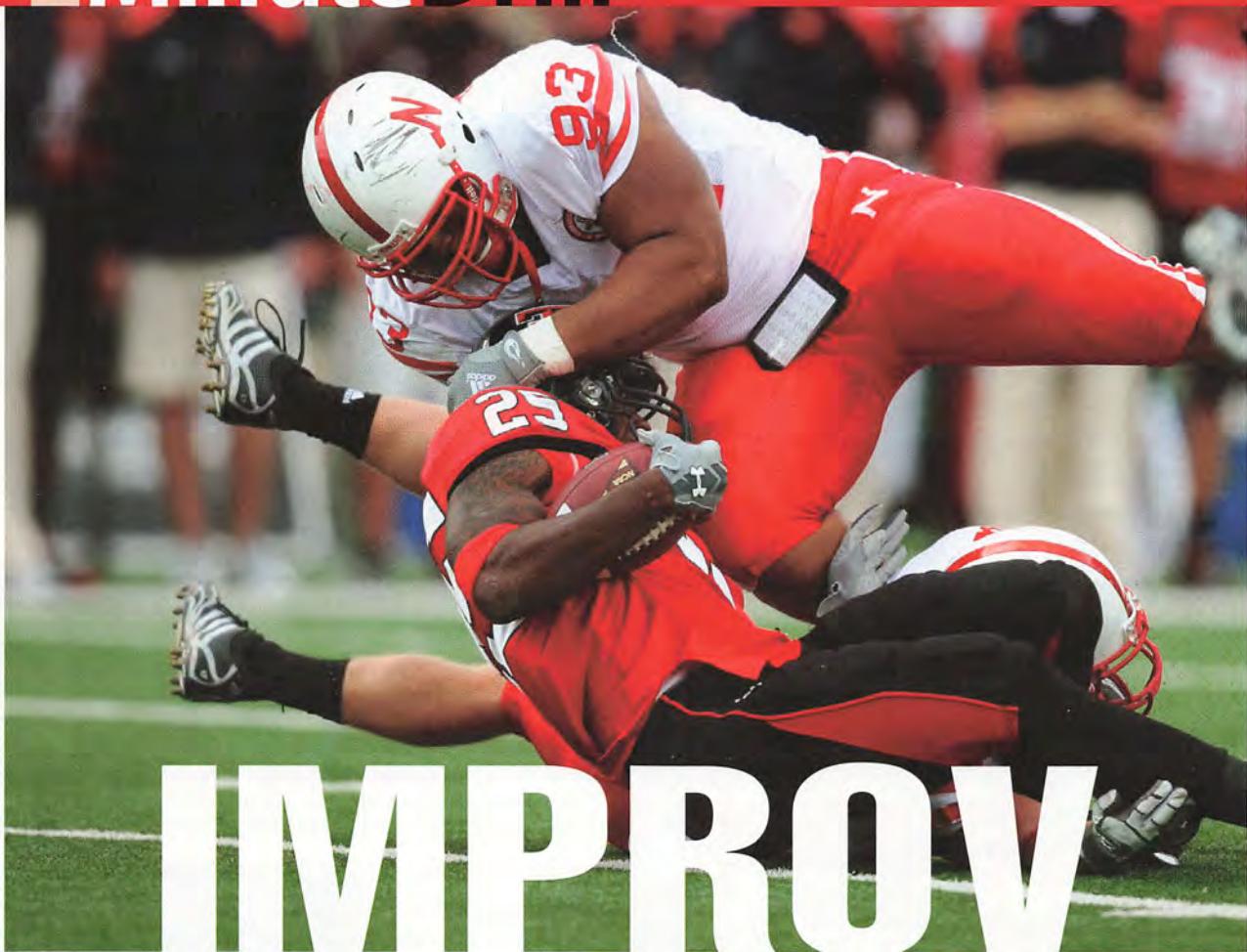
ARE YOU A CORNHEAD? Send us your story along with a photo to huskersillustrated@gmail.com and you may be featured in an upcoming issue of *Huskers Illustrated*.

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IMPROV

The first-team defense hasn't worn black practice jerseys this season, at least not through early in the week of the Oklahoma game. But that doesn't mean the Blackshirt tradition has been discontinued under coach **BO PELINI** – quite the contrary, in fact.

That no one had been issued a coveted black practice jersey was evidence of Pelini's understanding of the tradition and what is required of a Blackshirt.

"I'm looking for them to be earned," he said on the Tuesday before the opening game against Western Michigan, when asked why he hadn't given out any Blackshirts.

"There's a chance I might wait for a long time, I don't know."

Why would he do it that way? After all, the jerseys were typically distributed the week of the first game in the past. Why would he wait? "Why not? What's a Blackshirt mean if it's just a symbol that you haven't earned? Isn't that the point? I think that's what the point is," he said.

"Everybody wants to rush this thing. It was the same way when I was here the first time. I don't see the point in it if you just hand them out to hand them out."

The Blackshirts were pulled the week after a 45-14 loss against Oklahoma State last season, and no defenders have worn them since. For the record, the players understand.

"I think we definitely need a game or two or three or four or five to prove that (they're deserving), not only to ourselves but to our coaches and to our fans," junior defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH** said before the season began, reflecting that attitude.

Going into the Oklahoma game, the Cornhuskers ranked 66th nationally in total defense, 60th in scoring defense, 61st in rushing defense and 78th in passing defense, hardly Blackshirt quality.

What is Blackshirt quality? Nebraska has ranked in the top 10 nationally in total defense 21 times since 1964, when the tradition began during the second week of the season.

DEFENSIVE EXCELLENCE

| YR..... | NATIONAL RANK |
|------------|-------------------|
| 1964 | No. 2 (167.0 ypg) |
| 1965 | No. 8 (202.8) |
| 1967* | No. 1 (157.6) |
| 1971 | No. 5 (202.9) |
| 1972 | No. 4 (217.4) |
| 1975 | No. 8 (224.1) |
| 1979 | No. 5 (216.6) |
| 1980 | No. 3 (210.7) |
| 1981 | No. 5 (240.5) |
| 1984 | No. 1 (203.3) |
| 1985 | No. 6 (279.1) |
| 1986 | No. 2 (235.6) |
| 1987 | No. 8 (264.7) |
| 1988 | No. 7 (262.8) |
| 1989 | No. 8 (274.1) |
| 1990 | No. 7 (263.5) |
| 1994* | No. 4 (258.8) |
| 1996* | No. 7 (255.4) |
| 1997 | No. 5 (257.3) |
| 1999* | No. 4 (252.3) |
| 2001 | No. 8 (287.2) |

* Ranked in top 10 nationally in all four major categories: total defense, scoring defense, rushing defense, passing defense

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HE IS WHAT HE IS

Those who would pigeonhole Cornhusker senior wide receiver **NATE SWIFT** take note. "I get tired of people saying he's a possession guy, he's this, he's that. He's just a heck of a football player. He's a leader. He's a competitor. He's everything you want in a football player," coach **BO PELINI** said after Swift surpassed **JOHNNY RODGERS** on the Cornhuskers' career-receptions list.

Swift isn't fazed by such a designation. "I don't really care what they say," he said. "What is a possession guy anyway? A receiver's a receiver, and I know what I can do. I think all the coaches know what I can do, and everybody on this team. So that definitely doesn't bother me at all."

BEST OF BO

BO PELINI is intense, no question about that. And he sees things in black and white, clearcut, without shades of gray. But he also has a sense of humor. During his weekly news conference on the Tuesday before the Iowa State game, he was asked if he thought he had a "dangerous" team.



"In what way? Dangerous to themselves or somebody else?" he replied.

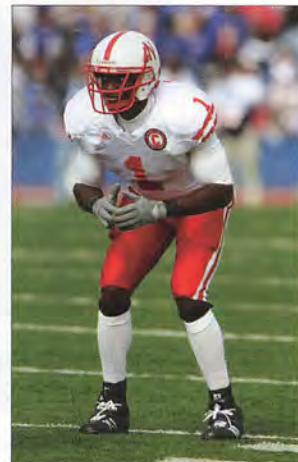
At another Tuesday news conference, he was asked about the enthusiasm of linebackers coach **MIKE EKELER** and whether he had ever seen an assistant so animated and emotional.

"Me, I've never showed any emotion, so I don't really pay attention," Pelini said.

Describing his frustration with poor execution, Pelini said that by the end of a week of less-than-satisfactory practices, "you could usually put me in a rubber room."

And the week before the Baylor game, when **JOE GANZ** showed up for interviews with the early stages of a full beard, Pelini asked reporters if they knew of an "old-time barber."

SIDELINES



IMPRESSIVE DEBUT

The Chicago Bears didn't add former Cornhusker **ZACK BOWMAN** to the active roster, taking him off their practice squad, until the seventh game of the season. The rookie defensive back's activation was a result of injuries to the Bears' top three cornerbacks. Bowman, a fifth-round draft pick, made the most of his opportunity, recovering a fumble on a muffed punt for a touchdown and then intercepting a Gus Frerote pass with 41 seconds remaining in a 48-41 victory against the Minnesota Vikings.

Bowman, who persevered through two knee injuries at Nebraska, suffered a biceps injury during the fourth quarter of the game and was slated for surgery. Despite the injury, Bowman returned to make the interception after another cornerback, Corey Graham, was injured.

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MANNING THE MANGLER

Cornhusker wrestling coach **MARK**

MANNING and former Cornhusker safety and special teams player **BRANDON RIGONI** put on pads and went one-on-one in the Hawks Championship Center at the end of a recent football practice to settle a bet. The guidelines were these: Rigoni would get five carries beginning at about the 10-yard line to try to get into the end zone against Manning, who lined up near the 3-yard line. Rigoni had to cross the goal line of each of the five carries.

With an audience that included the entire football team and coaches as well as basketball coach **DOC SADLER** and Athletic Director **TOM OSBORNE**, Rigoni reached the end zone on his first three carries, somersaulting over Manning on the third one. But Manning made the stop on the fourth.

Osborne presented Manning, who wore a black No. 24 jersey with "Mangler" above the number on the back, with a trophy afterward. The match-up was preserved on YouTube.

FAST COMPANY

The three quarterbacks on Phil Steele's 2008 Mid-Season All-American Team all were from the Big 12: first team, Colt McCoy of Texas; second team Chase Daniel of Missouri; and third team Sam Bradford of Oklahoma. Add to the mix Graham Harrell of Texas Tech, Todd Reesing of Kansas and Zac Robinson of Oklahoma State and it's easy to see why Cornhusker quarterback **JOE GANZ** isn't likely to earn a place on the first three all-conference teams despite impressive numbers.

Senior wide receiver **NATE SWIFT**, who also could be overlooked, thinks Ganz should be on the Big 12's "A" list of quarterbacks, however. "He hasn't gotten all the playing time, experience his whole career that a lot of those guys had," said Swift. "They had their trial period their first couple of years where they got in the games and made their mistakes and learned."

SIDELINES



OFFENSIVE MVP

If coach **BO PELINI** had given out MVP awards at the mid-point of the season, the offensive award would have gone to ...

Envelope please ...

The wide receivers. **NATE SWIFT**, **TODD (PETERSON)**, I go right through the group," he said on the Tuesday following the Texas Tech game, the sixth of the season. "I think **MENELIK (HOLT)** is getting better. I think **NILES PAUL** has brought a lot to the team. On a consistent basis, those guys along with **JOE (GANZ)** have been the MVPs. They're playing very well, not only running routes and catching balls but blocking on the perimeter. They're playing at a high level."

COMPARING CONFERENCES

BO PELINI, who spent the past three seasons as defensive coordinator at LSU, was asked to compare the Big 12 and the SEC, whether the Big 12 is catching up. "I think it's a year-to-year thing, and always has been," he said. "I think you're seeing across the country that teams can beat anybody on any given day. There's good football being played throughout the country. The SEC is a quality conference and the Big 12 is a quality conference. There's a lot of parity out there."

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"I think Joe's had to learn in practice against scout teams and all that the last three or four years, and I think he's coming into his own now where he's getting the confidence those guys had, and he's got all the abilities those guys have, too."

CARL'S RESPECT

Senior defensive tackle **TY STEINKUHLER** does few interviews. But those he's around have plenty to say about him. Defensive coordinator **CARL PELINI** recently told the *Omaha World-Herald* that Steinkuhler is "quite honestly one of the favorite guys I've ever coached. He never gives anything but his whole best effort," said Pelini. "I know coaches use the term 'blue collar' a lot, but that's who he is. He shows up every day, and he's all business."



REWRITING THE HUSKER RECORD BOOKS

The move to a pass-oriented offense the past five seasons has led to a rewriting of the passing and receiving sections of the Cornhusker record book. Last season, I-back **MARLON LUCKY** broke **JOHNNY RODGERS'** single-season record for receptions, with 75. And this season, wide receiver **NATE SWIFT** surpassed "the Jet" in career receptions, with his eighth against Baylor.

But Rodgers holds one school record that isn't likely to be broken any time soon. It doesn't have anything to do with catching passes, though he had to catch the ball before proceeding. And not only is it a school record but also it is an NCAA record. Rodgers is tied with three other players for the most touchdowns scored on kick and punt returns during a career, with eight.

The others on the list, all from current Big 12 teams: are Cliff Branch of Colorado (1970-71), Wes Welker of Texas Tech (2000-03) and Antonio Perkins of Oklahoma (2001-04).

Rodgers' approach to returning kicks was to improvise. "The plan was: There is no plan," Rodgers said recently. "You have to be able

to react. Things are not going to be as you thought they would be. I remember when they told me about visualization. You remember that.

"You visualize the ball coming in and then you can see yourself going down the side. You break to the left and back to the right and then you go to the middle for the touchdown. Well, that worked great until you realized they (defenders) didn't get the same visualization.

"I could get killed thinking that way. So I got rid of it real quick."

He never knew what he was going to do when he fielded the punt or kickoff.

"You'd better be open to whatever. There are no set rules," he said. "You've got to be able to adjust, react on the spot, in a

moment's notice. It's no plan. You plan to catch it. You plan to make sure on a punt that you (the protector) get that first guy. And once we get started, it's just on.

"We never really know what's going to happen, just meet me down the field. That's why we stopped calling left (return) and right (return) because I would call a left and go right or a right and go left. So we just started calling them middle. We'd just see what happened."

Rodgers had a green light to do whatever he was inclined to do. "I would call 'right' return, and the wall would set up on the right. I'd see them (blockers) setting up over there and the other team would see them setting up there, too," he said. "So what's the sense of going over there?"

"It didn't seem too bright to me. So I'd go the opposite direction and then I'd break back to the grain, and once I'd break back through the grain, I'd break through the wall and the other team would have to get through the wall to get me. I'd set them up by going the opposite direction."

He makes it sound simple, but it wasn't. Few could do it the way he did.

THE JET'S TD RETURNS

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 48 yards, punt return | Oct. 10, 1970 | Missouri, 21-7 |
| 66 yards, punt return | Oct. 24, 1970 | Oklahoma State, 65-31 |
| 98 yards, kickoff return | Sept. 27, 1971 | Texas A&M, 34-7 |
| 92 yards, punt return | Oct. 23, 1971 | at Oklahoma State, 41-13 |
| 62 yards, punt return | Nov. 6, 1971 | Iowa State, 37-0 |
| 72 yards, punt return | Nov. 25, 1971 | at Oklahoma, 35-31 |
| *77 yards, punt return | Jan. 1, 1972 | Alabama, 38-6 (Orange Bowl) |
| 64 yards, punt return | Sept. 30, 1972 | Minnesota, 49-0 |
| 52 yards, punt return | Nov. 18, 1972 | Kansas State, 59-7 |

*Prior to 2002, official NCAA statistics did not include bowl games.

2 Minute Drill



Papillion, Nebraska



Only five true freshmen walk-ons were included on the roster of 105 for pre-season football practice in 2007. Mike Hays was among them, as was Kevin Thomsen.

Both were fullbacks, and "we had each other's backs," said Hays. "The first day of fall camp, when that horn

blew, we just looked at each other, everybody was going crazy, and we were like, 'Wow, this is it.' It was a lot different than high school."

For Hays, walking on at Nebraska was the realization of a dream. He could have gone to a smaller school, on scholarship. Nebraska-Omaha, Augustana and Mankato State were among those interested in him. But "this is where I wanted to go," he said.

"I talked to my parents, and they said ultimately it was my decision."

Hays arrived as a fullback but was immediately moved to linebacker, where he played on the scout team. "I feel like I can deliver more with the offense than I can with the defense," he said. "But it didn't really matter to me once they told me I was going to be on the scout team, whether it was offense or defense. I just wanted to give the best look I could."

"I just wanted to do anything I could to help the team at that point, whatever I could do to ensure that team had the best look going into games."

With Bo Pelini and a new staff in place, Hays returned to fullback in the spring. And now he's contributing on special teams: punt, kickoff and kickoff return.

"Nebraska was my favorite team growing up," said Hays, who was born in Germany but moved when he was kindergarten age. "I've wanted to play for them since I was little."

"Right now I'm just living the dream." **N**

MIKE HAYS

6-1, 230, Redshirt Freshman, Fullback

Hometown: Papillion, Neb.

County: Sarpy

Population: 21,271

Distance from Lincoln: 40 miles

On what makes Papillion special:

"I'd say the people give it its identity. Everybody's hard-working. Everybody knows everybody. It's a tight-knit community. It's very powerful when you see how people come together. It's great being in that community. It's only a 45-minute drive, so I try to go back as much as possible, but during the season it's kind of hard."

[MIKE HAYS]

Nebraska football lettermen:

John Gibson, WB (1998-01)
Lance Brown, WB (1995-98)
Scott Woodard, SE (1978-79, 81)



IT AIN'T EASY

So you want to be an offensive lineman? "Just to be there and accept a blow from a guy the same size as you and hold him there and pick up different guys, move them left to right, here and there, I mean, it's a lot more difficult than it looks like on TV or in the stands," senior offensive tackle **LYDON MURTHA** said recently. "Being

on the o-line is a position that not a lot of people like.

"If you ask the majority of people what position would you play in football, very, very few will say, 'I want to play on the o-line.' That's the mentality we all have: 'We're not going to get beat. We're not going to let our brothers down next to us,' and that's what makes us good."

NO AVERAGE JOE

Offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach **SHAWN WATSON** hasn't been surprised by the success of **JOE GANZ**, even though he didn't get an opportunity until the end of his fourth season. "I never had any doubt about Joe because Joe studies the game," Watson said.

"The game comes easy for Joe. He has the 'it' factor. You can put it on the board one time and he's got it. He'll bring it out here and execute it to a T. So he's just got it. He's a player."



THE BIG 12 BEAT

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Texas Tech digs deep for kicker

Matt Williams' 15-minutes of fame has been extended.

If you haven't heard about the guy with the same name as the former Major League third baseman, in this case a Texas Tech student, he came out of the stands during halftime of the Red Raiders' Sept. 20 game against Massachusetts and booted a 30-yard field goal as part of a promotion for a townhome complex.

By doing so, Williams earned one year of free rent, but he turned down that offer because he'd signed a lease agreement with a different outfit.

Well, Tech coach Mike Leach had seen Williams' kick and was so impressed by him (not to mention frustrated with his team's kickers) that he offered him a chance to join the team.

Even though he didn't figure to see any action, Williams accepted. Low and behold, one month later, after Tech had its seventh kick of the season blocked during a win against Texas A&M, Leach decided to use him the next week at Kansas, and Williams went 9-for-9 on PAT kicks in a 63-21 win.

On top of that, he was named the Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week.

"I thought the tough one was winning free rent," Leach said about Williams, a product of Weatherford, Texas, who wasn't cleared to play until the KU game, because school officials wanted to be sure he hadn't been on scholarship and played at NCAA Division II Tarleton State before transferring to Tech. "You come out in your shorts and your straight shoes, you're kicking a 30-yarder in front of 55,000 people."

Added defensive coordinator Ruffin

McNeil, "'He was calm in practice the first night he came on the team. As calm as he was that night, he was (against Kansas)."

For Big 12 fans wondering what happens if the **LONGHORNS**, **TEXAS TECH** and **OKLAHOMA STATE** all finished atop the South Division with one league loss, and they all involved each other, the tiebreaker that would determine which advanced to the league championship would be the BCS rankings.

When talking about who will be the 2008 Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year gets going, it's dominated by quarterbacks.

Just past the halfway point of the season, McCoy and Texas Tech's Graham Harrell are on most people's minds. Last year's honoree, Red Raiders receiver Michael Crabtree, can barely get in that conversation. But someone who's definitely an afterthought is

OKLAHOMA STATE tailback Kendall Hunter.

After getting 161 yards against a Texas run defense that ranked No. 2 nationally, Hunter was No. 4 nationally in rushing with a 139.5-yard average.

So why not Hunter for Big 12 OPOY?

"He doesn't receive a lot of recognition, for whatever reason," Cowboys coach Mike Gundy said. "But we really like him."

Hunter was on pace to eclipse the OSU freshman rushing record of 1,553 yards set by Thurman Thomas in 1985.

TEXAS quarterback Colt McCoy is getting carried away with the Longhorns' single-game record for completions. One week after he established the new mark of 32 in a rout of Missouri, the junior connected on 38 throws to fuel a four-point win against Oklahoma State.

"Colt had one sack and he had enough time

to stand back there as long as he wanted," Texas coach Mack Brown said.

In his first three of four straight games against nationally ranked opponents (Oklahoma, Missouri and Oklahoma State), McCoy completed 84.8 percent of his passes and averaged 335 yards.

OKLAHOMA sophomore running back DeMarco Murray had a four-touchdown game at Kansas State. His two rushing scores gave him 24 for his career. His two receiving TDs were his first two as a Sooner.

"He has more confidence putting his foot in the ground and making the sudden cuts that most guys don't even think about," OU coach Bob Stoops said. "And maybe he was thinking about them before, but he seems to be more comfortable making those cuts than he has before, and running harder."

COLORADO's 58-0 loss at Missouri brought an end to the Buffaloes' consecutive-games streak of scoring at 242 (the ninth-longest streak in Division I-A history and third longest of those still active). But twice after things got out of hand, the Buffaloes bypassed attempting short shot field goals in order to try and reach the end zone.

Eight games into the season, **OKLAHOMA STATE** was the only team to have held Missouri or Texas under 30 points, and the Cowboys did that to both the Tigers and Longhorns.

MISSOURI'S average starting position for its seven touchdown drives against Colorado was at the Buffaloes' 48-yard line. Yep, sometimes the Tigers' offense really looks like one of those indoor teams.

In the loss to Texas Tech, **KANSAS** quarterback Todd Reesing had his streak of 200-yard passing games ended at 12.



Alfonzo Dennard

5-10, 190, Freshman, CB, Rochelle, Ga.

If not for the Internet, Alfonzo Dennard probably wouldn't be at Nebraska. He never made a recruiting visit. Pretty much all he knew about it was what he saw on Huskers.com.

He also traded e-mails with some Cornhuskers, among them Niles Paul, Marlon Lucky and Maurice Purify, who told him "the best place to play football was Nebraska," he said.

Oh yes, Dennard had heard good things about Bo Pelini. He learned about Nebraska's academic support system. And he learned about the enthusiastic support of Cornhusker fans.

So even though he had committed to North Carolina, which was concerned about whether he would qualify academically, he settled on Nebraska just before letter-of-intent-signing

day. And when he arrived on campus in early June, his Internet impressions were confirmed.

"I fell in love with it when I first came here," he said.

Still, it was a big change. The only time Dennard – who respectfully punctuates his sentences with "yes sir" and "no sir" – had been out of the state was to take a recruiting visit to North Carolina. So he was understandably homesick for a while.

But his mom encouraged him to "stay out here and just fight it," he said.

Barely a month passed and the homesickness was gone. Dennard had settled in.

He and roommate Quentin Toailoa, a defensive lineman from Highland, Calif., hit it off right away, he said. "I met everybody on the team and was like, 'This is where I want to be, right here!'"

HI: What kind of music will you not listen to?

DENNARD: That's a good question because I listen to all kinds of music. I listen to rap. My favorite rapper is TI. Eminem, I like him, too.

HI: What scares you the most: spiders, snakes or sharks?

DENNARD: Snakes, I'm petrified of snakes. It doesn't matter if it's a baby snake, I'm scared of snakes.

HI: Are you superstitious?

DENNARD: Yes sir, don't split poles. Like if there's a pole and I walk this way and my friend walks that way, I'm like, "Naw, man, you've got to come this way or I'll come your way." It's always been that way. My homeboys, my friends, taught me that.

HI: Where would you most like to visit?

DENNARD: California, Los Angeles, I'm a big Laker fan, Kobe Bryant fan, Pau Gasol.

HI: What's the best thing served at the training table?

DENNARD: Pasta, I never had pasta back home. I like the little rolls with shrimp, crab, ham, all that in it. They have it every Thursday. I remember it.

HI: What do you like to watch on television?

DENNARD: ESPN, SportsCenter, I like Kirk Herbstreit. He's just funny.

HI: What's the Tunnel Walk like? Describe it if you can.

DENNARD: Oh man, it's the best thing that's ever happened to me. I enjoy the Tunnel Walk, the fans and everything. I enjoy the fans. Every time it feels like my first time.

HI: Day games or night games?

DENNARD: Night games, I like playing under the lights. In high school we played all night games. During the day, sitting around (waiting), me and Larry Asante watch football games on TV.

HI: Who's the funniest guy on the team?

DENNARD: Prince Amukamara, he says crazy stuff at the wrong time. I'll get around him, and he'll just make me laugh.

HI: Did you ask for a particular jersey when you got here or was your number assigned?

DENNARD: I asked for No. 1 because that was my number in high school. I like being No. 1 in everything I do. They said I could have it because the guy who had it last year, Zackary Bowman, he left, so I got to have it. But since I had to change to 15, it's no big thing. I was on kick return and Chris Brooks was on kick return, too, and he wore No. 1. Two people can't be on the field with the same number, so I'm OK with No. 15. I had a choice of 9 or 15. It really doesn't matter.



Mike Elliott

Delivering the Huskers across the world

Mike Elliott was in his early teens when he realized he wanted to have a career in radio.

He grew up in Trenton, Mo., a town of about 6,000 in the northern part of the state. At age 14, his passion for radio manifested itself in the form of his first gig – as a color analyst for the local radio station's high school football broadcasts.

Elliott has stayed true to his passion to this day. As a longtime producer and technical operations guru for the Husker Sports Radio Network, he's essentially in charge of "anything that involves getting something on the air – including figuring out how we're doing it, what we're doing, and the technical side of it as well."

For instance, Elliott handles on-site radio production for every Nebraska football game, home and away. His work involves not only the game itself, but pregame and postgame shows as well.

"On the road, it's always a challenge to figure out what sort of facilities and capabilities they have because we do so much more than any other radio network," said Elliott, noting the Husker pregame show often begins five hours before kickoff.

Elliott has served as a studio producer for Husker sports broadcasts since the mid-1970s, when he moved to Lincoln, Neb., right after his father became a state director of economic development.

"It just kind of took off from there," Elliott said.

It all goes back to that first job in Trenton.

"That was when hand-held calculators had first started to come out," Elliott recalled. "The play-by-play guy was so impressed because I could calculate up the statistics really fast and throw out all kind of stats. We really had a good time."



Nevertheless, Elliott gravitated toward production as opposed to on-air work.

"I knew that although I knew about sports, I was not destined to be a color guy or a play-by-play guy," Elliott said. "I enjoy producing. Basically what I'm doing is producing an event that's entertaining people and painting a picture. That's why I still like radio more than TV because radio is more of a challenge."

"With TV, you have the cameras," he added. "Then you sit there and talk about what everybody's seeing. With the radio, you have to create an image in the mind with sound, with what's said, with how you produce it, and so on. That's what drives me to this day – producing that show and entertaining people and painting that picture for them."

Catching up with **BY MIKE BABCOCK**

Joe Blahak

Undersized corner grew into starting role

JOE BLAHAK

LETTERS: 1970-72

POSITION: Cornerback

CURRENT: Insurance, retired

WIFE: Diane

CHILDREN: Chad, Ryan, Jenae

The recollection of that first day of practice remains vivid.

Joe Blahak and Nebraska's other freshman football players were sitting on the concrete floor of their locker room in Schulte Fieldhouse. The varsity locker room, a little nicer by comparison, was just on the other side of the equipment room.

Blahak remembers Larry Jacobson and Dave Walline, in particular, arriving that day. The varsity defensive tackles were 6-6, 247 pounds and 6-2, 238 pounds. "I think, 'Geez, what am I doing? I don't belong here,'" Blahak said.

He was 5-10 and 175 pounds, maybe.

As it turned out, however, he did belong. He became a starter the second game of his sophomore season, and would have started the first if not for missing curfew the night before in order to spend time with his brother, an Air Force pilot based in Thailand,

home on leave. He told

secondary coach Warren Powers he was going to miss curfew, and was disciplined the next Monday at practice.

He also was issued a Blackshirt and started against USC (a 21-21 tie) that Saturday at the Los Angeles Coliseum. He remembers the night well.

The team stood at the entrance to the field. "It was just amazing," said Blahak. "Then you hear this rumbling and here comes USC. You could hear the roar."

However, "I don't think there was any intimidation," he said.

Confidence characterized Bob Devaney's teams. "You learned the basics from him. Everything was well organized," Blahak said.

"And he was always very approachable."

Recruiting Notebook

Huskers look to boost stock

BY RICK SHAW

The Nebraska recruiting class is ranked in the middle of Big 12 Conference schools heading into the month of November. With seven or eight spots still available to fill, the Huskers still have the potential to climb up that list in the final three months of the 2009 recruiting cycle.

With 15 known pledges, the Big Red currently ranks No. 6 in the conference and No. 39 nationally in the Rivals.com recruiting rankings. The Huskers' class is currently headlined by two four-star rated prospects out of the state of Texas; quarterback **CODY GREEN** of Dayton and linebacker **CHRIS WILLIAMS** of Abilene. Nebraska also claims commitments from 11 three-star rated athletes and two two-star players (defensive end **EMERSON EVANS** of Houston (Texas) Alief Taylor and fullback **C.J. ZIMMERER** of Omaha (Neb.) Gross.

The University of Texas currently sits at the top of the conference and third nationally in Rivals' recruiting rankings. With 12 four-star prospects and one five-star already in the fold, the Longhorns will be tough to unseat as Big 12 Conference recruiting champions come February.

The Texas class is headlined by five athletes on Rivals' National Top 100 list, including five-star signal caller Garrett Gilbert (6-4, 205 pounds) of Austin (Texas) Lake Travis. Gilbert, who passed for over 4,800 yards and 52 touchdowns as a junior, is rated as the



CODY GREEN

nation's No. 2 pro-style quarterback and No. 19 prospect overall. The Longhorns also boast the pledge of the nation's No. 2 weakside defensive prospect in Alex Okafor (6-5, 232 pounds), who racked up 72 total tackles and five sacks in 2007.

Well behind Texas sits Oklahoma in the No. 16 slot in Rivals' National recruiting rankings. The Sooners already claim 18 overall commitments, including six four-star rated pledges. Topping the list for OU are a pair of highly touted linebacker prospects, Ronnell Lewis (6-3, 220 pounds) of Dewar (Okla.) and Tom Wort (6-1, 210 pounds) of New Braunfels (Texas).

Ranked as the nation's No. 6 best outside linebacker prospect by Rivals, Lewis utilized 4.4-second speed in the 40-yard dash to tally 11 interceptions as a junior safety. Wort, rated the No. 9 outside linebacker, totaled 213 tackles,

four sacks and three interceptions in 2007.

The Aggies of Texas A&M aren't far behind the Sooners, coming in at the No. 18 spot on the Rivals' rankings. However, with 24 pledges already in the books, A&M won't have much opportunity to boost their current standing between now and Signing Day.

The Aggies class includes four four-star members. Patrick Lewis, a 6-2, 293-pound center out of Laplace (La.) East St. John, is the current headliner. He's regarded as the nation's fourth-best center and 249th overall prospect by Rivals.

Missouri's class, ranked No. 24 by Rivals, has only one prospect out of 16 current commitments rated with four-stars or better. However, that one prospect, defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson (6-4, 292 pounds) out of St. Louis (Mo.) Gateway High, is the highest rated recruit currently pledged to a Big 12 Conference school.

Rated the No. 1 defensive tackle prospect in the country and No. 5 prospect overall by Rivals.com, Richardson is the only five-star rated athlete committed to a Big 12 North program. He significantly bolstered his recruiting stock over the summer by running a 4.7-second 40-yard dash at Missouri's summer camp. He chose the Tigers over offers from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas State, Miami and others.

Texas Tech falls in at No. 30 slot nationally

by Rivals. Like the Huskers, the Red Raiders currently claim 15 total pledges in their 2009 recruiting class, with two of those commitments coming from four-star rated athletes.

Kyle Clark, a 6-5, 267-pound offensive tackle out of Denton (Texas) Guyer chose the Red Raiders over offers from Arizona, Arkansas, LSU, Louisville, Nebraska and others. Rated the No. 20 offensive tackle prospect in the country by Rivals, Clark has the potential to be an immediate contributor in Lubbock.

Not far behind the Huskers in the rankings is the University of Kansas at No. 42. With 15 overall pledges, the Jayhawk class looks very similar (on paper) to that of Nebraska. The one exception is that Kansas has only one pledge from an athlete rated with four-stars or better.

Prinz Kande, a 5-11, 182-pound safety out of Euless (Texas) Trinity, is the Jayhawks' headline commitment. Rated as the No. 18 safety prospect nationally and among the top 35 players in the state by Rivals, Kande has the ability to become an immediate difference-maker for the Jayhawk secondary. He has been a starter since his freshman season for the tradition-rich Trinity program.

With only five current commitments, the Oklahoma State Cowboys still have a lot of work to do in forming their 2009 recruiting class. However, it's certainly off to a good start.

Though currently sitting in the No. 44 slot in the Rivals' rankings, the Cowboys already have pledged from three four-star rated athletes, including 6-foot-4, 325-pound offensive tackle Anthony Morgan of Corsicana (Texas) Navarro Junior College. Morgan is rated as the No. 4 overall junior



C.J. ZIMMERER

college prospect in the country.

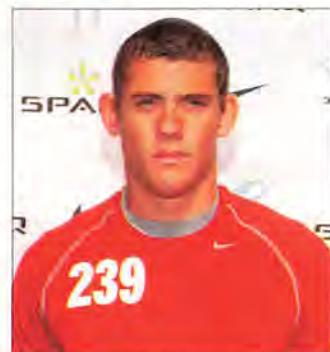
Oklahoma State also out-battled Oklahoma for in-state offensive guard prospect Brandon Webb (6-4, 320-pounds) of Owasso. Webb is regarded as the nation's No. 5 offensive guard prospect by Rivals.

Baylor's class is currently ranked ninth in the Big 12 and No. 58 in the country by Rivals. The Bears commitment list includes two four-star rated athletes from the state of Texas in athlete Glasco Martin (6-1, 196 pounds) of Round Rock and offensive lineman Ivory Wade (6-5, 306 pounds) of Dickinson.

Rounding out the Big 12 rankings are Colorado in the No. 61 slot with five current pledges (all three-stars), Kansas State at No. 67 with 10 total pledges (four three-stars and six two-stars) and Iowa State at No. 75 with 12 commits (7 three-stars and four two-stars).

The Huskers stand in the middle of the Big 12 pack heading into the final three months of the Big 12 recruiting cycle. Whether or not they finish in the top or bottom halves of the conference recruiting rankings will depend entirely on how they close out on their remaining available slots. ■

COMMITTED



POSITION DOESN'T MATTER

When you use the term "athlete," it's easy to see why that's the best way to define the position-possibilities that Corona (Calif.) Centennial commit **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** will bring to the table in Lincoln.

For his high school team, he's got well over the 1,000 yard mark passing thus far in his season and has scored touchdowns both throwing and rushing. When Martinez committed, he mentioned he was being brought in as an athlete – basically saying he'll find out where he fits best when he gets to Nebraska. Frankly, he doesn't care where he plays.

"They don't know which position I'll be playing yet," Martinez said about the Nebraska staff's plan for him. "I don't care."

More than likely, as it usually happens during the course of the months leading up to when he arrives to campus, Martinez will find out more about that as time goes on. He plans to finally take his official visit to Lincoln on Nov. 8 when the Huskers take on Kansas. The last time he was on campus was late this summer.

Despite being focused completely on the playoffs, the 6-0, 176-pounder has gotten a chance to check out some Husker games. He noted being impressed with Nebraska beating a team that his family has a connection to.

"I've watched whatever games of theirs that have been on TV," he said. "They've been looking good and you can see that they're getting better each week. They beat my dad's old team, Iowa State."

by John Talman, Recruiting Publisher
HuskersIllustrated.com

Recruiting Notebook

Huskers add offensive lineman

by Sean Stevens

Nebraska has had four offensive linemen orally committed for a few weeks now, but has been searching for one more prospect to round out the class. The top option on their list has been **JEREMIAH SIRLES** (6-6/280/3-stars) of Lakewood, Colo. Sirles made things official Oct. 24, choosing Nebraska over Oregon, Arizona State, Texas Tech, Cal and others.

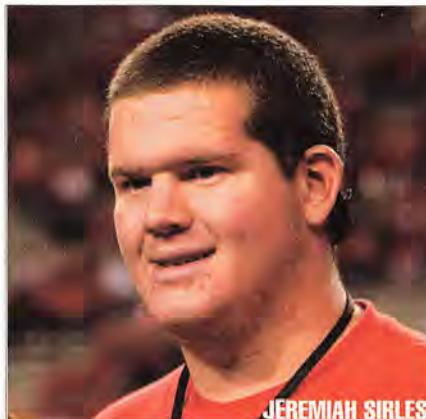
At the beginning of the week, Sirles had narrowed things down to Oregon and Nebraska. He was asked to compare the official visits he took to his top two schools.

"I enjoyed both of them a lot," he said. "They were both a blast. The coaches and atmosphere were both a lot of fun. It's so hard to compare the two because they were both so awesome it was ridiculous."

Familiarity with Nebraska won his commitment.

"I'm going to be a Husker," Sirles said. "From going up there this summer, I got to talk to coach **BO PELINI** for a good hour and 45 minutes. Coach (**BARNEY**) **COTTON** took me around to all the facilities. From the beginning I was just wowed."

Sirles made multiple visits to Lincoln,



JEREMIAH SIRLES

including an official visit for the Missouri game.

"I mean just the atmosphere at Nebraska, it was amazing," he said. "The whole game day experience leading up to kickoff and the intensity after kickoff. Fans know who you are by name when you walk down the tunnel...it literally gave me goose bumps."

With his decision made, Sirles said that he won't be looking at any more visits to additional suitors.

"I've said from the get-go that I'm not going to be one of those floater players that says, 'Yeah I'm committed, but oh here is another offer or I'm invited to visit here.' I'm a Husker from here on out."

SIDELINES



LOGAN RATES HUSKERS

ALEX LOGAN (6-2/195/3-stars) is another Coloradoan who is high on Nebraska's list and they are near the top of his list as well. According to his father, Alvin Logan, his commitment could come before Thanksgiving and after his fifth official visit.

"He's been to Arizona State, Nebraska, California and Oregon," Mr. Logan said. "I've gone on all of the (trips) with him. Right now, we're trying to set up either a visit to Washington or to Colorado on Nov. 15 and that will be his final visit."

Alvin Logan talked about what he likes about the Huskers.

"They have great facilities and tradition and everything," he said, "but the thing I can say about Nebraska is their graduation rate ... the academic support ... the amount of academic All-Americans that have played there is exceptional."

"Everybody has something but Nebraska has really separated themselves in that area... that's something I look very closely at."

Alex Logan visited Lincoln for the Virginia Tech game and gave his impressions after the trip.

"I thought the whole visit was great. I'd give it a '10'. Although I wish they would have won, I thought they played hard and fought it out to the end."

Logan's decision should come soon.

2009 Nebraska Commitment List (15)

| Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Hometown (High School) |
|-----------------------|------|------|-----|----------------------------------|
| Nick Ash | OL | 6-5 | 261 | Keller, Texas (Keller) |
| Shawn Bodtmann | OLB | 6-0 | 205 | Scranton, Pa. (West Scranton) |
| DeAndre Byrd | CB | 5-10 | 170 | Tallahassee, Fla. (Lincoln) |
| Jess Coffey | OL | 6-7 | 270 | Denton, Texas (Guyer) |
| Emerson Evans | DE | 6-1 | 230 | Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor) |
| Cody Green | QB | 6-4 | 220 | Dayton, Texas (Dayton) |
| J.T. Kerr | TE | 6-4 | 230 | Corona, Calif. (Scripps Ranch) |
| Taylor Martinez | ATH | 6-0 | 176 | Corona, Calif. (Centennial) |
| Cole Pensick | DL | 6-2 | 250 | Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast) |
| Thaddeus Randle | DL | 6-1 | 255 | Galena Park, Texas (North Shore) |
| Dontrayevous Robinson | RB | 6-1 | 215 | Euless, Texas (Trinity) |
| Jeremia Sirles | OL | 6-6 | 280 | Lakewood, Colo. (Bear Creek) |
| Brent Qvale | OL | 6-7 | 300 | Williston, N.D. (Williston) |
| Chris Williams | LB | 6-0 | 230 | Abilene, Texas (Abilene) |
| C.J. Zimmerer | FB | 6-0 | 213 | Omaha, Neb. (Omaha Gross) |



QUENTIN CASTILLE IS
STOOD UP AGAINST
THE SOONER DEFENSE.

NEBRASKA 28
OKLAHOMA 62

Turnovers haunt Huskers

In the three contests leading up to its game against No. 4-ranked Oklahoma, Nebraska had enjoyed plenty of offensive success thanks in large part to a short, controlled passing game.

Oklahoma cornerback Dominique Franks was obviously paying attention.

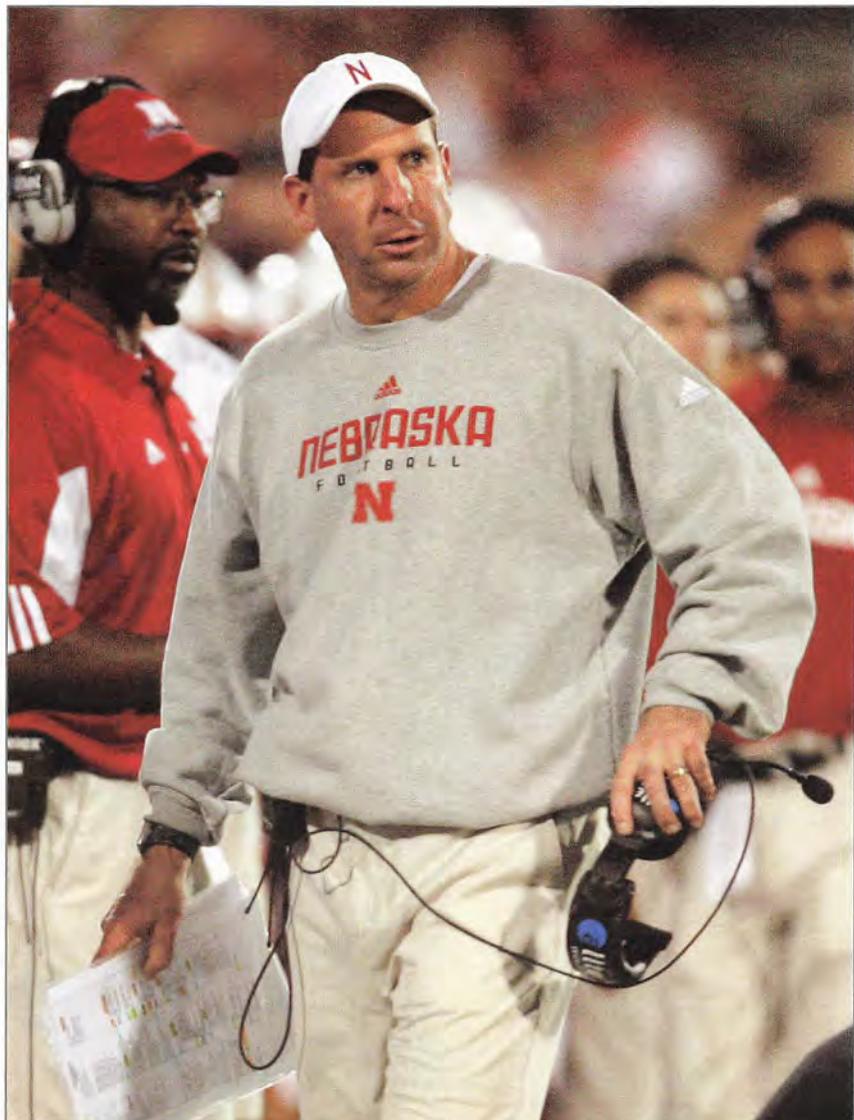
With the Sooners already leading 7-0 after a quick score on their first possession, Nebraska's first offensive play saw quarterback Joe Ganz attempt to fire a quick strike to wide receiver Todd Peterson — just as he did numerous times in games against Texas Tech, Iowa State and Baylor. But this time Ganz's seemingly harmless pass produced a disastrous result for the Cornhuskers as Franks darted in front of Peterson for an 18-yard interception return for a touchdown.

"I got the chance and I made the play," Franks said. "I saw their formation and knew it was coming."

Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said Oklahoma "obviously" anticipated the Huskers' first offensive play.

The defensive score by Franks opened the flood gates as Oklahoma, aided by two more first-quarter turnovers, built a 35-0 lead in the opening frame. It was the most points ever allowed by Nebraska in a first quarter.

Oklahoma, which had five takeaways the previous week against Kansas State, recovered a fumble by Nebraska tight end Dreu Young on the Huskers' second possession to set up the third score for the Sooners. On NU's very next possession, Lendy Holmes intercepted a Ganz pass and returned it to the 9-yard line, setting up another TD.



Bo Pelini shows his disgust after things went sour in the first quarter.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

"Our defense did a great job creating turnovers and then taking one back to the house and giving us short fields," Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford said. "When our defense does that, it makes our job a lot easier."

Said Franks: "Our defense just thinks about creating turnovers and giving the ball back to our great offense."

On a night that featured numerous big plays for the Sooners, Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said Franks' early interception return stood out.

"I felt like Dominique Franks really ignited us with that (interception)," Stoops said. "So it was a good way to start a good game." **N**

— by Terry Douglass



PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN



Backup quarterback Patrick Witt gets some playing time.



Country music star Toby Keith greets Bo Pelini after the game.

REPORT CARD

RUSHING:

B-

Nebraska's 208 rushing yards marked its third-highest output of the season, but 201 of those yards came after Oklahoma took a 35-0 first-quarter lead. Nevertheless, Roy Helu impressed with a career-high 157 yards against the country's 20th-ranked rushing defense.

PASSING:

D+

It was obvious that Oklahoma didn't skip its game-film study this week as Sooners' cornerback Dominique Franks jumped Joe Ganz's first pass of the game for a pick-six. Ganz was intercepted twice and limited to 204 passing yards.

RUSHING DEFENSE:

D+

Oklahoma rushed for 193 yards, averaging 4.8 yards per carry. The Sooners rushed 14 times for 94 yards in the first quarter as running backs Chris Brown and DeMarco Murray and even quarterback Sam Bradford gashed the Huskers early.

PASSING DEFENSE:

D-

Bradford's 19-of-27 passing day for 311 yards and five TDs pretty much says it all as Oklahoma dominated through the air. The Sooners' quarterback kept himself in Heisman Trophy contention despite sitting out the fourth quarter.

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

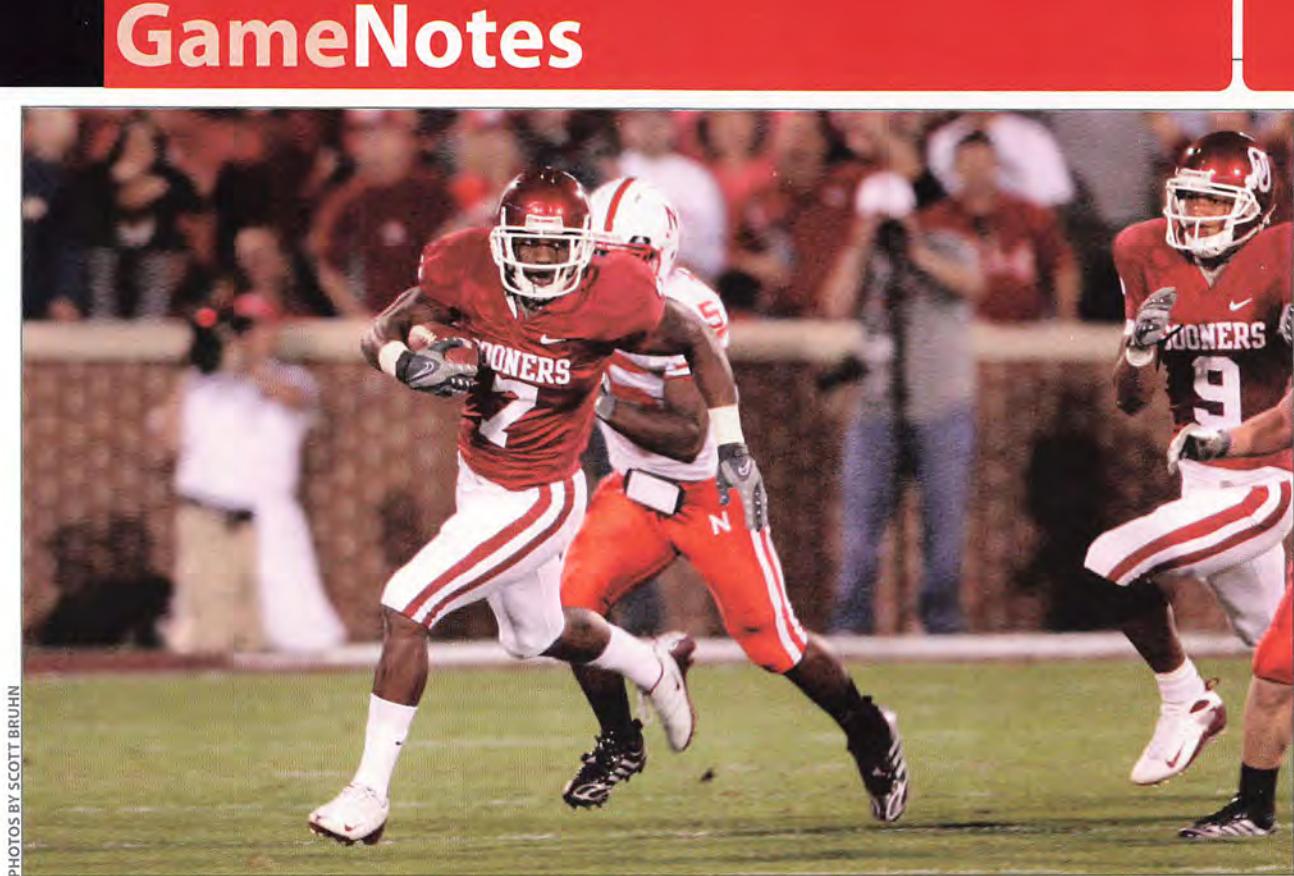
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Poor kickoff coverage stood out as Oklahoma averaged 36.6 yards on five returns. Murray set the tone with a 62-yarder to open the game. On a positive note, punter Dan Titchener appears to have broken out of his funk.



Eric Hagg makes a tackle.

GameNotes



PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

PROLONGED AGONY

Even though Oklahoma scored quickly, the 35-0 first quarter was prolonged agony, lasting nearly an hour, no doubt causing even some Nebraska fans watching on television to switch channels to ABC's coverage of the Texas Tech-Texas game, which was 12-0 at the end of the first quarter, Tech. The posting of each Tech score draw applause from the Sooner crowd.

BACK IN THE HUNT

Texas Tech's 39-33 victory against Texas put Oklahoma back in the chase in the Big 12's South Division. The Red Raiders come to Norman in three weeks, after playing Oklahoma State in Lubbock and then an off-week. The cheering of Sooner fans watching the end of the Texas Tech-Texas game could be heard during Nebraska coach **BO PELINI**'s post-game interview.

"What the heck's going on out there?" he said. "There's a team that just beat Texas. And we went into overtime with Texas Tech."

The Cornhuskers lost at Lubbock 37-31.

"The bottom line is this: Our margin of error right now is small. And we keep trying to stress to our players it's about us, about taking care of what we do," said Pelini.

"When we don't play well, we don't execute stuff well . . . that margin of error grows. And we're not able to overcome that. We need to play well. We need to do our stuff. We need to be consistent in what we're doing. We need to play better so that that margin of error . . . we fix that."

"That didn't surprise me that Texas Tech beat Texas – I mean, two good football teams. But we did show that we could go on the road and play with that football team. Tonight we didn't. We didn't execute well. We got hit in the mouth early and we lost momentum. We didn't respond well."

NO SURPRISE

Oklahoma's 49 first-half points were its most-ever in a half against the Cornhuskers.

The Sooners' previous high was 34 points in the second half of the 1954 game, which they won 55-7. Oklahoma's 35 first-quarter points equaled its most-ever against a Big 12 opponent. The Sooners also scored 35 points in the second quarter against Texas A&M in 2003.

PLAYERS OFF-LIMITS

For the first time in at least 30 years, Nebraska players weren't available to reporters for post-game interviews. Coach **BO PELINI** said they would be available as usual, after Monday's practice. "I'm the voice tonight. The players are not available for comment, OK? If you don't like it, tough."

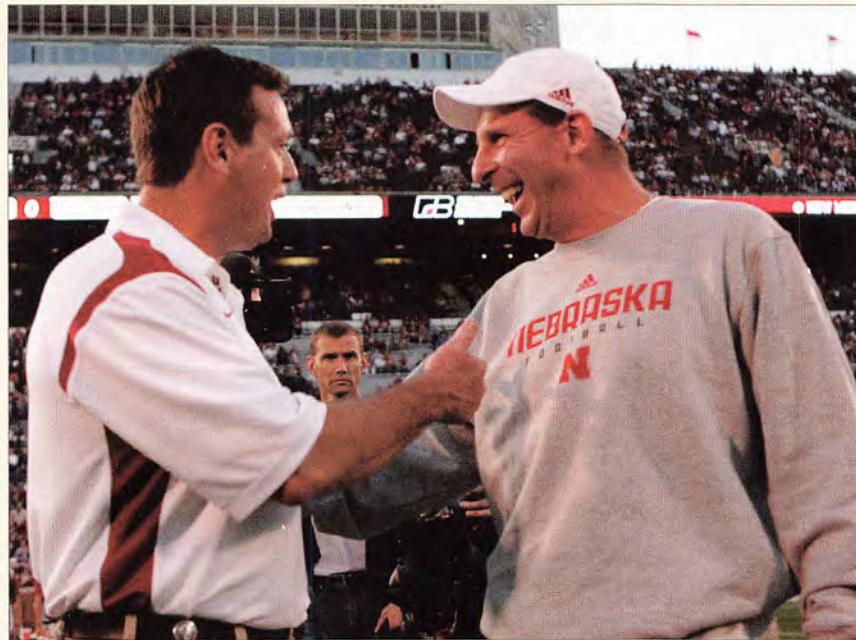
"Ask me the questions you'd ask the players."

Pelini answered questions for more than 16 minutes and told sports information director **KEITH MANN** he would remain until all of the reporters' questions were answered.



MUTUAL RESPECT

Not often does a school sponsor a reunion of players and coaches from a game it lost. But that's what Oklahoma did on Friday night before the game. The reunion, arranged by Oklahoma Athletic Director Joe Castiglione, was for those who played and coached in the 1971 "Game of the Century" at Norman, won by Nebraska 35-31. It included 45 players and coaches from the Oklahoma team and some 30 players and coaches from the Nebraska team. Reunion participants were introduced at halftime of the game. **Below:** Bob Stoops and **BO PELINI** talk before the game.



QUICKLY



CAPTAINS

The Cornhusker captains for the game were senior offensive guard **MATT SLAUSON**, senior wide receiver **TODD PETERSON**, senior **TY STEINKUHLER** and junior wide receiver **CHRIS BROOKS**.

INJURY

Offensive tackle **LYDON MURTHA** was helped from the field with 11 seconds remaining in the first half, after suffering what coach **BO PELINI** said was a foot sprain. The "initial prognosis" was that Murtha might be sidelined for a week, Pelini said. "We're not sure yet, until he gets an MRI or X-ray."

ONE EACH

The only Oklahoman on Nebraska's roster, **PHILLIP DILLARD**, made the trip to Norman but didn't play because of an ankle sprain. Oklahoma's roster includes one Nebraskan, reserve tight end Kolby Smith, a senior from Pender, Neb., by way of Ellsworth (Iowa) Community College.

UP NEXT

Nebraska's home matchup against Kansas will begin at 1:30 p.m. (Central) and will be televised on a pay-per-view basis.

GameStats

SUMMARY

SCORING

Nov. 1, 2008
Memorial Stadium • Norman, Okla.
Attendance: 85,212

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Tot | NU | OU |
|-----------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Nebraska | 0 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 28 | | |
| Oklahoma | 35 | 14 | 13 | 0 | 62 | | |
| First Quarter | | | | | | | |
| OU | Brown 2-yard Run (Stevens Kick) 12:17 Drive: 7 plays 53 yds 2:43 | | | | 0 | 7 | |
| OU | Franks TD INT (Stevens Kick) 12:13 | | | | 0 | 14 | |
| OU | Chaney Pass from Bradford 48-yards (Stevens Kick) 10:31 Drive: 3 plays 52 yds 0:55 | | | | 0 | 21 | |
| OU | Gresham Pass from Bradford 9-yards (Stevens Kick) 09:27 Drive: 1 plays 9 yds 0:05 | | | | 0 | 28 | |
| OU | Brown Pass from Bradford 1-yard (Stevens Kick) 00:04 Drive: 10 plays 97 yds 3:20 | | | | 0 | 35 | |
| Second Quarter | | | | | | | |
| NU | Castille 2-yard Run (Henery Kick) 11:20 Drive: 8 plays 80 yds 3:40 | | | | 7 | 35 | |
| OU | Murray 3-yard Run (Stevens Kick) 08:06 Drive: 9 plays 44 yds 3:07 | | | | 7 | 42 | |
| NU | Helu jr. 14-yard Run (Henery Kick) 04:24 Drive: 7 plays 80 yds 3:35 | | | | 14 | 42 | |
| OU | Murray 8-yard Run (Stevens Kick) 02:56 Drive: 4 plays 43 yds 1:18 | | | | 14 | 49 | |
| Third Quarter | | | | | | | |
| NU | Swift Pass from Ganz 8-yards (Henery Kick) 11:34 Drive: 7 plays 83 yds 3:15 | | | | 21 | 49 | |
| OU | Gresham Pass from Bradford 11-yards (Stevens Kick) 09:30 Drive: 6 plays 66 yds 1:58 | | | | 21 | 56 | |
| OU | Murray Pass from Bradford 25-yards (Stevens Kick Failed) 00:44 Drive: 3 plays 18 yds 1:17 | | | | 21 | 62 | |
| Fourth Quarter | | | | | | | |
| NU | Witt 16-yard Run (Henery Kick) 00:21 Drive: 4 plays 81 yds 1:34 | | | | 28 | 62 | |

TEAM STATS

| | NU | OU |
|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Total First Downs..... | 15 | 21 |
| Rushing..... | .9 | 8 |
| Passing..... | .6 | 11 |
| Penalty..... | .0 | 2 |
| Rushing Attempts..... | 35 | 40 |
| Yards Gained Rushing..... | 225 | 201 |
| Yards Lost Rushing..... | 21 | 8 |
| Net Yards Rushing..... | 204 | 193 |
| Net Yards Passing..... | 214 | 315 |
| Passes Attempted..... | 28 | 30 |
| Passes Completed..... | 16 | 21 |
| Had Intercepted..... | .2 | 1 |
| Percent Completion..... | 57.1% | 70.0% |
| Yards per Attempt..... | 7.6 | 10.5 |
| Yards per Completion..... | 13.4 | 15.0 |
| Total Offensive Plays..... | .63 | .70 |
| Total Net Yards..... | 418 | 508 |
| Avg. Gain Per Play..... | .66 | .73 |
| Fumbles: No-Lost..... | .2-2 | 0-0 |
| Penalties: No-Yards..... | 8-74 | 7-69 |
| Punts: No-Yards..... | 7-320 | 4-160 |
| Avg. Per Punt..... | 45.7 | 40.0 |
| Avg. Net Punt..... | 45.9 | 40.0 |
| Punt Returns: No-Yards..... | .0-0 | 3-1 |
| Kickoff Returns: No-Yards..... | 7-145 | 5-183 |
| Interception Returns: No-Yards..... | .1-0 | 2-44 |
| Fumble Returns: No-Yards..... | .0-0 | 0-0 |
| Miscellaneous Yards..... | .0 | 0 |
| Possession Time..... | 30:42 | 29:18 |
| Third-Down Conversions..... | 5-12 | 7-13 |
| Percentage..... | 41.7% | 53.8% |
| Fourth-Down Conversions..... | .0-0 | 1-1 |
| Percentage..... | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| Sacks By: No-Yards..... | 0-0 | 1-8 |

OFFENSIVE INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

| NEBRASKA | | | | | | | | OKLAHOMA | | | | | | | |
|----------|----|------|------|-----|------|----|----|----------|----|------|------|-----|-----|----|----|
| Rushing | No | Gain | Lost | Net | Avg | TD | Lg | Rushing | No | Gain | Lost | Net | Avg | TD | Lg |
| Helu Jr. | 16 | 165 | 8 | 157 | 9.8 | 1 | 57 | Brown | 9 | 89 | 0 | 89 | 9.9 | 1 | 39 |
| Peterson | 1 | 16 | 0 | 16 | 16.0 | 0 | 16 | Murray | 14 | 59 | 2 | 57 | 4.1 | 2 | 10 |
| Witt | 1 | 16 | 0 | 16 | 16.0 | 1 | 16 | Madu | 8 | 18 | 3 | 15 | 1.9 | 0 | 5 |
| Lucky | 5 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 1.6 | 0 | 4 | Bradford | 2 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 7.0 | 0 | 13 |
| Ganz | 4 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 1.2 | 0 | 7 | Johnson | 4 | 12 | 1 | 11 | 2.8 | 0 | 5 |
| Castille | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0.3 | 1 | 2 | Iglesias | 1 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 7.0 | 0 | 7 |
| McNeill | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | Johnson | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2.0 | 0 | 2 |

| Passing | Att | Comp | % | Int | Yds | TD | Lg | Passing | Att | Comp | % | Int | Yds | TD | Lg |
|---------|-----|------|-------|-----|-----|----|----|----------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|----|----|
| Ganz | 26 | 14 | 53.8 | 2 | 206 | 1 | 67 | Bradford | 27 | 19 | 70.4 | 1 | 311 | 5 | 48 |
| Witt | 2 | 2 | 100.0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 6 | Halze | 3 | 2 | 66.7 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 |

| Receiving | No | Yds | TD | Lg | Receiving | No | Yds | TD | Lg |
|-----------|----|-----|----|----|-----------|----|-----|----|----|
| Swift | 3 | 83 | 1 | 67 | Chaney | 5 | 128 | 1 | 48 |
| Peterson | 5 | 73 | 0 | 36 | Gresham | 5 | 52 | 2 | 20 |
| Helu Jr. | 2 | 19 | 0 | 14 | Broyles | 1 | 41 | 0 | 41 |
| Paul | 1 | 14 | 0 | 14 | Iglesias | 3 | 37 | 0 | 29 |
| Young | 1 | 8 | 0 | 9 | Murray | 1 | 25 | 1 | 25 |
| Gillelen | 1 | 6 | 0 | 6 | Madu | 3 | 19 | 0 | 15 |
| McNeill | 1 | 6 | 0 | 6 | Tennell | 2 | 12 | 0 | 9 |
| Castille | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | Brown | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Brooks | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | | | | | |

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED BOWL PREDICTIONS

| TV/DATE/TIME | BOWL | BIG 12 TEAM | POSSIBLE OPPONENT |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| TBA | BCS - TBA |  | TBA |
| TBA | BCS - TBA |  | TBA |
| COTTON Dallas FOX 1/2 2 p.m. |  |  | LSU |
| ALAMO San Antonio ESPN 12/29 8 p.m. |  |  | NORTHWESTERN |
| HOLIDAY San Diego ESPN 12/30 8 p.m. |  |  | CAL |
| SUN El Paso, Texas CBS 12/31 2 p.m. |  |  | ARIZONA/ OREGON STATE/ STANFORD |
| INSIGHT Tempe, Ariz. NFL 12/31 5:30 p.m. |  |  | WISCONSIN/ ILLINOIS/ IOWA |
| INDEPENDENCE Shreveport, La. ESPN 12/28 8 p.m. |  |  | KENTUCKY |
| TEXAS Houston NFL 12/30 8 p.m. |  |  | MARSHALL |

The Gator Bowl has the option of selecting a Big 12 team prior to the Alamo Bowl's selection. Our predictions assume the Gator Bowl will take Notre Dame over a Big 12 team. These projections also assume that Colorado and Kansas State become bowl eligible. If they don't the Big 12 may not fill all of its bowl spots. We will update our predictions in the next issue.

2008 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

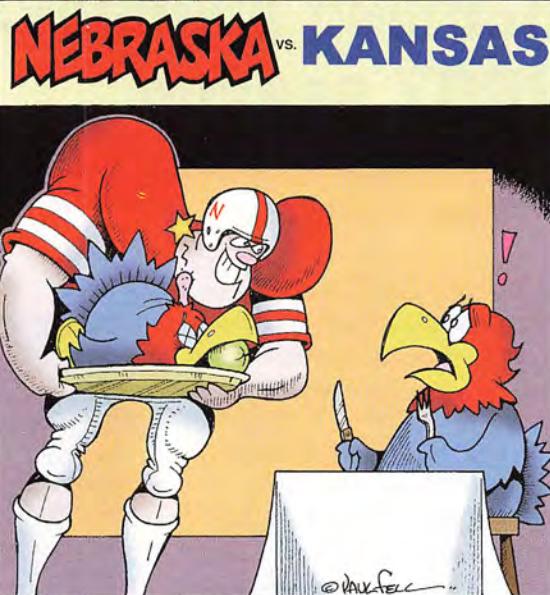
| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| Sat., Aug. 30 | Western Michigan | Memorial Stadium | W, 47-24 |
| Sat., Sept. 6 | San Jose State | Memorial Stadium | W, 35-12 |
| Sat., Sept. 13 | New Mexico State | Memorial Stadium | W, 38-7 |
| Sat., Sept. 27 | Virginia Tech | Memorial Stadium | L, 30-35 |
| Sat., Oct. 4 | #4/3 Missouri | Memorial Stadium | L, 17-52 |
| Sat., Oct. 11 | #7 Texas Tech | at Lubbock, Texas | L, 31-37 (OT) |
| Sat., Oct. 18 | Iowa State | at Ames, Iowa | W, 35-7 |
| Sat., Oct. 25 | Baylor | Memorial Stadium | W, 32-20 |
| Sat., Nov. 1 | Oklahoma | at Norman, Okla. | L, 28-62 |
| Sat., Nov. 8 | Kansas | Memorial Stadium | 1:30 p.m. (PPV) |
| Sat., Nov. 15 | Kansas State | at Manhattan, Kan. | TBA |
| Fri., Nov. 28 | Colorado | Memorial Stadium | 2:30 p.m. (ABC) |
| Sat., Dec. 6 | Big 12 Championship | at Kansas City, Mo. (Arrowhead Stadium) | 7 p.m. (ABC) |

FAN OF THE GAME



Like most Husker fans, Chris Loeffler of Stevens Point, Wisc., expressed a number of emotions in Saturday's loss to Oklahoma.

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION



NOVEMBER 8, 2008
JAYHAWKS COME TO LINCOLN EXPECTING A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR'S FEAST, ONLY TO GET A DOUBLE SERVING OF BIG RED REVENGE!

THIS WEEK'S PICKS



AARON BABCOCK, Editor
Last Week: (4-1) Season: (34-10)

UT 49-21
CU 24-20
MU 55-17
TT 49-47
KU 38-35



MIKE BABCOCK, Contributing Editor
Last Week: (4-1) Season: (36-8)

UT 49-21
CU 24-21
MU 52-17
OSU 48-45
NU 38-31



TERRY DOUGLASS, Grand Island Independent
Last Week: (5-0) Season: (35-9)

UT 47-17
CU 20-17
MU 51-35
OSU 56-49
NU 34-31



MATT DAVISON, Husker Sports Network
Last Week: (4-1) Season: (36-8)

UT 44-20
CU 27-24
MU 51-20
OSU 47-41
NU 35-31



SEAN CALLAHAN, HuskersIllustrated.com
Last Week: (4-1) Season: (31-8)

UT 41-28
CU 34-28
MU 55-28
TT 48-45
NU 37-34

Reesing improves on 2007 season

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE



TODD REESING enjoyed a breakout season in 2007. He galvanized the Kansas football program with his leadership and playmaking ability.

He's even better in 2008, Jayhawks head coach Mark Mangino said.

Reesing is a "much-improved player over last season in a lot of ways," the coach said. "He's in even more command of the offense. He has thrown the ball very well." Through eight games this season, the 5-11, 200-pound Reesing had a passer-efficiency rating of 152.18, three points higher than last season. Reesing was completing 69 percent of his throws through eight games compared to 61.9 last season. He was averaging 309.5 passing yards compared to 268.2 a year ago.

However, Reesing has had some rough patches, most notably in Kansas' 63-21 loss to Texas Tech on Oct. 25. In the third quarter, Reesing threw three interceptions all to the same player, Tech safety Darcel McBath.

"I've never had that happen to me in a lot of years of football, where you have that many back-to-back mistakes," Reesing told reporters. "Sometimes when things go bad they can get really bad. You can't really sugarcoat that."

Said Mangino: "He made some throws he shouldn't have. I think he was trying to get our team going on offense and made a couple throws he normally doesn't make, and had some picks."

However, "He's strong," Mangino added. "He's been performing at a high level all season for us."

SERIES NOTE

Nebraska leads the series 88-23-3 but has dropped two of the last three games, including 76-39 last season in Lawrence, Kan.

The Huskers have won 19 straight against the Jayhawks in Lincoln, Neb., the two closest calls coming in the last two –14-8 in



2004 and 39-32 in overtime in 2006.

Kansas' last win in Lincoln occurred in October 1968 in the Big Eight Conference opener for both squads. Nebraska led 6-0 halftime on Joe Orduna's sensational 28-yard run, and the Huskers still led 13-9 early in the fourth quarter.

However, Kansas kept coming. Bobby Douglas drove the boys in blue 73 yards for the clinching TD with four minutes left, as the sixth-ranked Jayhawks toppled the ninth-ranked Huskers 23-13. KU went on to play in the Orange Bowl that season.

The series is tied for the third-longest in NCAA Bowl Subdivision history at 114 games, trailing only Minnesota-Wisconsin (116) and KU-Missouri (115). The NU-KU series is continuous since 1906 (102 games), making it the longest current continuous series in the bowl subdivision.

KANSAS QUICK FACTS

Head coach: Mark Mangino (42-39 in six-plus seasons, all at KU)

Enrollment: 29,613

Colors: Crimson and Blue

Conference: Big 12

2007 record: 12-1 (7-1 Big 12)

Starters returning/lost: 15/9

2008 SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 8/30 | Florida International, W, 40-10 |
| 9/6 | Louisiana Tech, W, 29-0 |
| 9/12 | at South Florida, L, 37-34 |
| 9/20 | Sam Houston State, W, 38-14 |
| 10/4 | at Iowa State, W, 35-33 |
| 10/11 | Colorado, W, 30-14 |
| 10/18 | at Oklahoma, L, 45-31 |
| 10/25 | Texas Tech, L, 63-21 |
| 11/1 | Kansas State |
| 11/8 | at Nebraska |
| 11/15 | Texas |
| 11/29 | Missouri |

KANSAS ROSTER

| # | QUARTERBACKS | >>> | HT | WT | YR. |
|----|----------------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 17 | Tyler Lawrence | QB | 6-3 | 217 | Sr. |
| 19 | Kale Pick | QB | 6-2 | 200 | Fr. |
| 5 | Todd Reesing | QB | 5-11 | 200 | Jr. |
| 10 | Kerry Meier | QB | 6-3 | 220 | Jr. |

| # | OFFENSIVE LINE | >>> | HT | WT | YR. |
|----|--------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 56 | Kayl Anderson | LS | 6-2 | 250 | Jr. |
| 60 | Adrian Mayes | OL | 6-3 | 305 | Sr. |
| 63 | Ian Wolfe | OL | 6-5 | 295 | Sr. |
| 50 | Ryan Cantrell | OL | 6-3 | 295 | Sr. |
| 59 | Sal Capra | OL | 6-3 | 292 | Sr. |
| 70 | Matt Darton | OL | 6-6 | 310 | Sr. |
| 75 | Nathan D'Cunha | OL | 6-6 | 307 | Jr. |
| 79 | Chet Hartley | OL | 6-4 | 314 | Sr. |
| 77 | Jeremiah Hatch | OL | 6-3 | 311 | Fr. |
| 64 | JD Hill | OL | 6-4 | 285 | Fr. |
| 67 | Ben Luken | OL | 6-6 | 300 | Fr. |
| 69 | Trevor Marrongelli | OL | 6-4 | 285 | Fr. |
| 60 | Jose Rodriguez | OL | 6-6 | 293 | Jr. |
| 73 | Joe Semple | OL | 6-3 | 285 | Fr. |
| 62 | Alex Smith | OL | 5-11 | 281 | Sr. |
| 74 | Jeff Spikes | OL | 6-6 | 314 | Fr. |
| 76 | Brad Thorson | OL | 6-3 | 290 | Fr. |
| 71 | John Williams | OL | 6-4 | 338 | Fr. |
| 68 | Carl Wilson | OL | 6-4 | 288 | Sr. |

| # | RUNNING BACKS | >>> | HT | WT | YR. |
|----|------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 31 | Steven Foster | FB | 6-2 | 235 | Fr. |
| 23 | Tyler Hunt | FB | 6-2 | 220 | Sr. |
| 3 | Jocques Crawford | RB | 6-1 | 230 | Jr. |
| 6 | Rell Lewis | RB | 5-10 | 199 | Fr. |
| 22 | Angus Quigley | RB | 6-2 | 222 | Jr. |
| 1 | Jake Sharp | RB | 5-10 | 190 | Jr. |

| # | RECEIVERS | >>> | HT | WT | YR. |
|----|----------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 86 | Tim Biere | TE | 6-4 | 243 | Fr. |
| 87 | Bradley Dedeaux | TE | 6-3 | 252 | Sr. |
| 83 | Tanner Hawkinson | TE | 6-6 | 245 | Fr. |
| 43 | Ted McNulty | TE | 6-5 | 220 | Fr. |
| 82 | Nick Plato | TE | 6-6 | 230 | Fr. |
| 11 | AJ Stewart | TE | 6-4 | 228 | Fr. |
| 80 | Dezmon Briscoe | WR | 6-3 | 200 | Sr. |
| 37 | Micah Brown | WR | 6-0 | 185 | Sr. |
| 2 | Raymond Brown | WR | 6-3 | 205 | Sr. |
| 36 | Jack Dowdell | WR | 6-2 | 180 | Fr. |
| 88 | Dexton Fields | WR | 6-0 | 208 | Sr. |
| 4 | Gary Green | WR | 5-9 | 175 | Sr. |
| 85 | Roderick Harris, Jr. | WR | 6-2 | 200 | Sr. |
| 13 | Marcus Herford | WR | 6-3 | 208 | Sr. |
| 89 | Tertavian Ingram | WR | 6-0 | 195 | Sr. |
| 27 | Willie O'Quinn | WR | 6-0 | 190 | Fr. |
| 28 | Daymond Patterson | WR | 5-9 | 175 | Fr. |
| 9 | Raimond Pendleton | WR | 5-11 | 192 | Jr. |
| 19 | Reece Petty | WR | 6-2 | 195 | Sr. |
| 18 | Xavier Rambo | WR | 6-0 | 195 | Sr. |
| 81 | Johnathan Wilson | WR | 6-3 | 187 | Sr. |
| 30 | Kyle Winkley | WR | 6-0 | 180 | Fr. |

| # | DEFENSIVE LINE | >>> | HT | WT | YR. |
|----|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 90 | Richard Alspaugh | DE | 6-4 | 241 | Sr. |
| 81 | Russell Brorsen | DE | 6-4 | 240 | Sr. |
| 91 | Jake Laptad | DE | 6-4 | 249 | Sr. |
| 87 | John Larson | DE | 6-3 | 250 | Sr. |
| 95 | D.J. Marshall | DE | 6-4 | 230 | Fr. |
| 47 | Maxwell Onyegbule | DE | 6-5 | 252 | Jr. |
| 96 | Dustin Spears | DE | 6-5 | 235 | Jr. |
| 84 | Jeff Wheeler | DE | 6-7 | 260 | Sr. |
| 94 | Caleb Blakesley | DT | 6-5 | 292 | Jr. |
| 92 | Patrick Dorsey | DT | 6-0 | 275 | Fr. |
| 99 | Jamal Greene | DT | 6-4 | 301 | Sr. |
| 97 | Richard Johnson, Jr. | DT | 6-2 | 280 | Fr. |
| 93 | Darius Parish | DT | 6-4 | 341 | Fr. |
| 55 | Justin Pessetto | DT | 6-3 | 274 | Sr. |
| 98 | Duane Zlatnik | DT | 6-4 | 303 | Fr. |

| # | DEFENSIVE BACKS | >>> | HT | WT | YR. |
|----|-------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 20 | Taylor Lee | CB | 6-1 | 180 | Fr. |
| 29 | Isiah Barfield | CB | 6-0 | 178 | Fr. |
| 27 | Greg Brown | CB | 5-11 | 169 | Fr. |
| 30 | Anthony Davis | CB | 6-0 | 192 | Fr. |
| 24 | Kendrick Harper | CB | 5-9 | 190 | Sr. |
| 16 | Chris Harris | CB | 6-0 | 185 | Sr. |
| 23 | Ryan Murphy | CB | 5-10 | 176 | Fr. |
| 35 | Corrigan Powell | CB | 5-10 | 163 | Fr. |
| 36 | Tang Bacheyie | S | 6-1 | 215 | Sr. |
| 44 | Olaitan Oguntoedu | S | 6-0 | 220 | Sr. |
| 7 | Patrick Resby | S | 6-0 | 204 | Sr. |
| 39 | Lubbock Smith | S | 5-11 | 192 | Fr. |
| 26 | Phillip Strozier | S | 6-0 | 196 | Sr. |
| 25 | Darrell Stuckey | S | 6-1 | 205 | Jr. |
| 46 | Justin Thornton | S | 6-1 | 213 | Jr. |
| 28 | Eric Tyler | S | 6-0 | 185 | Fr. |

| # | LINEBACKERS | >>> | HT | WT | YR. |
|----|-----------------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 49 | Drew Dudley | LB | 6-2 | 232 | Sr. |
| 61 | Jordan Fee | LB | 5-11 | 200 | Fr. |
| 53 | Chris Heinze | LB | 6-3 | 205 | Fr. |
| 56 | Corwin Hicks | LB | 5-10 | 190 | Fr. |
| 12 | James Holt | LB | 6-3 | 226 | Sr. |
| 52 | Steven Johnson | LB | 6-2 | 225 | Fr. |
| 51 | Dakota Lewis | LB | 6-1 | 202 | Sr. |
| 8 | Joe Mortensen | LB | 6-1 | 250 | Sr. |
| 57 | Che Peterman | LB | 6-2 | 220 | Fr. |
| 38 | Josh Richardson | LB | 6-4 | 200 | Fr. |
| 40 | Mike Rivera | LB | 6-3 | 255 | Sr. |
| 58 | Jake Schermer | LB | 6-2 | 222 | Jr. |
| 45 | Justin Springer | LB | 6-4 | 242 | Sr. |
| 55 | Nathan Sydney | LB | 5-10 | 220 | Fr. |
| 41 | Arist Wright | LB | 6-0 | 220 | Sr. |

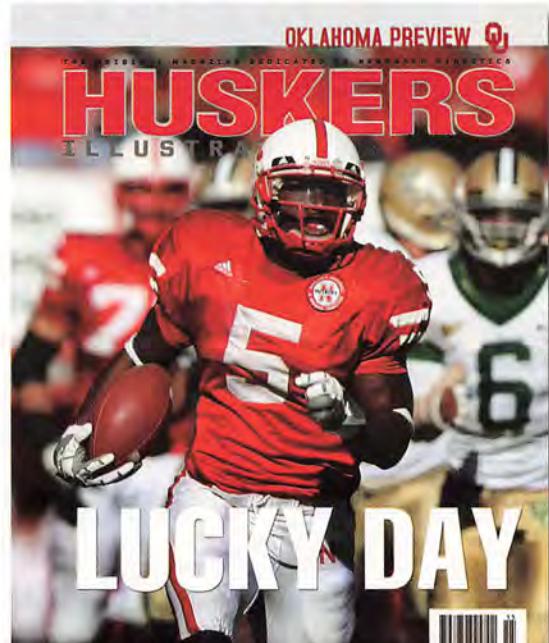
NEBRASKA TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

| OFFENSE | | | | | |
|---------|----|--------------------|-----|-----|------|
| WR | 87 | Swift, Nate | 6-2 | 200 | Sr. |
| | 4 | Menelik Holt | 6-4 | 220 | Jr. |
| | 8 | Will Henry | 6-5 | 220 | Sr. |
| LT | 65 | Smith, Mike | 6-6 | 285 | Sr. |
| (or) | 72 | Jaivorio Burkes | 6-5 | 325 | Sr. |
| LG | 68 | Keith Williams | 6-5 | 305 | Sr. |
| (or) | 61 | Mike Huff | 6-4 | 300 | Sr. |
| C | 67 | Jacob Hickman | 6-4 | 290 | Jr. |
| | 58 | Mike Caputo | 6-1 | 275 | RFr. |
| RG | 70 | Matt Slauson | 6-5 | 320 | Sr. |
| | 73 | D.J. Jones | 6-5 | 305 | Sr. |
| RT | 76 | Murtha, Lydon | 6-7 | 315 | Sr. |
| | 78 | Marcel Jones | 6-7 | 310 | RFr. |
| TE | 44 | Mike McNeill | 6-4 | 240 | Sr. |
| | 49 | Drew Young | 6-4 | 245 | Sr. |
| | 89 | Hunter Teafatiller | 6-3 | 240 | Sr. |
| WR | 17 | Todd Peterson | 6-4 | 215 | Sr. |
| | 24 | Niles Paul | 6-1 | 210 | Sr. |
| | 11 | Curenski Gilleylen | 6-0 | 210 | RFr. |
| QB | 12 | Joe Ganz | 6-1 | 210 | Sr. |
| | 2 | Patrick Witt | 6-4 | 225 | RFr. |
| | 3 | Zac Lee | 6-2 | 210 | Sr. |
| IB | 5 | Marlon Lucky | 6-0 | 215 | Sr. |
| (or) | 10 | Roy Helu Jr. | 6-0 | 215 | Sr. |
| (or) | 29 | Quentin Castille | 6-1 | 235 | Sr. |
| FB | 36 | Thomas Lawson | 6-0 | 250 | Sr. |
| | 89 | Hunter Teafatiller | 6-3 | 240 | Sr. |

| DEFENSE | | | | | |
|---------|----|---------------------|------|-----|------|
| DE | 98 | Zach Potter | 6-7 | 280 | Sr. |
| | 88 | Clayton Sievers | 6-4 | 255 | Sr. |
| NT | 93 | Ndamukong Suh | 6-4 | 300 | Jr. |
| | 56 | Shukree Barfield | 6-4 | 290 | Sr. |
| | 90 | Terrence Moore | 6-3 | 275 | RFr. |
| DT | 43 | Ty Steinkuhler | 6-3 | 280 | Sr. |
| | 94 | Jared Crick | 6-6 | 280 | RFr. |
| DE | 95 | Pierre Allen | 6-5 | 265 | Sr. |
| | 96 | Cameron Meredith | 6-4 | 235 | Sr. |
| WLB | 34 | Cody Glenn | 6-0 | 235 | Sr. |
| | 40 | Blake Lawrence | 6-3 | 225 | Sr. |
| MLB | 52 | Phillip Dillard | 6-1 | 235 | Jr. |
| | 51 | Will Compton | 6-2 | 230 | Fr. |
| | 54 | Colton Koehler | 6-1 | 230 | Jr. |
| BLB | 53 | Tyler Wortman | 6-3 | 235 | Sr. |
| | 42 | Sean Fisher | 6-6 | 225 | Fr. |
| | 7 | Latravis Washington | 6-3 | 225 | Sr. |
| RC | 5 | Anthony West | 6-0 | 200 | Sr. |
| | 21 | Prince Amukamara | 6-1 | 195 | Sr. |
| | 23 | Lance Thorell | 6-1 | 190 | RFr. |
| LC | 6 | Armando Murillo | 6-0 | 190 | Sr. |
| | 28 | Eric Hagg | 6-1 | 200 | Sr. |
| | 15 | Alfonzo Dennard | 5-10 | 190 | Fr. |
| SS | 4 | Larry Asante | 6-1 | 210 | Jr. |
| | 2 | Major Culbert | 6-0 | 205 | Jr. |
| FS | 33 | Matt O'Hanlon | 5-11 | 195 | Jr. |
| | 3 | Rickey Thenarase | 6-0 | 195 | Sr. |

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

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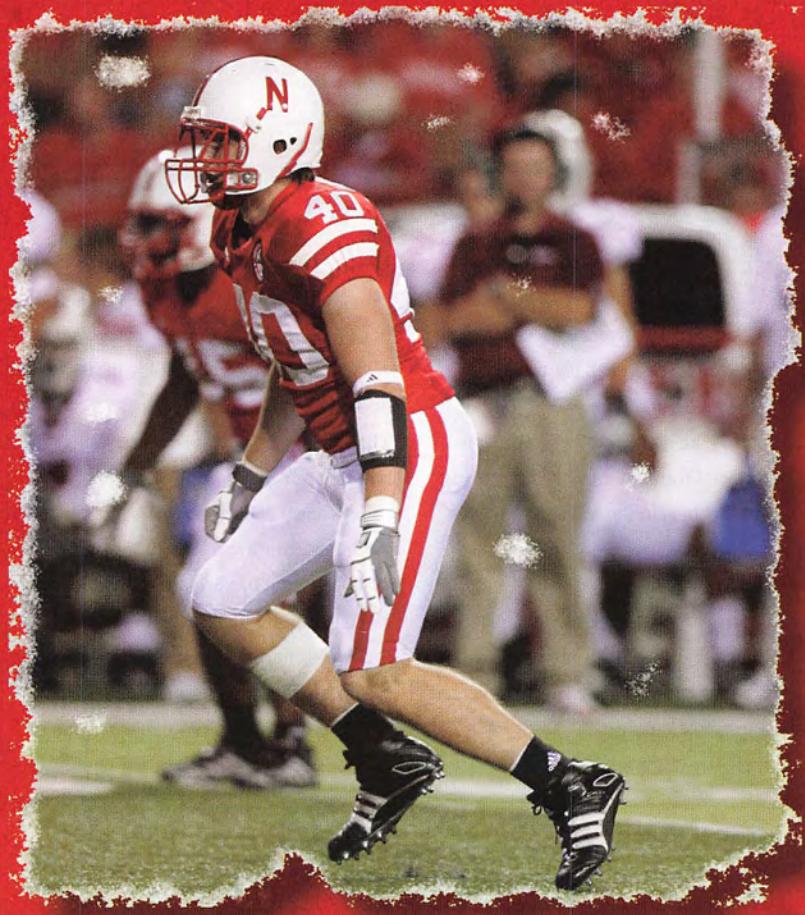
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CORNHUSKER CONVERT

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Lawrence ready for his chance

When he was younger, Nebraska sophomore linebacker Blake Lawrence never really had a favorite college football team. Growing up in the middle of the Big 12 country, he had a number of obvious choices. After all, his family's home in Overland Park, Kan., was just a few hours' drive from most of the schools in the league's North Division.

His father, Mike Lawrence, grew up in Missouri as a big Tiger fan. His step-dad, Matt Heath, played basketball at Kansas State. And his older brother, Tyler, accepted a scholarship to play football at Kansas.

Nebraska, however, was never in the running. The Huskers seemed to always be the ones on the opposite side of the team Blake Lawrence was pulling for on a given week.

"Truth be told, I was never a Nebraska fan," he said. "Growing up, we always wanted to beat the guys in red."

Lawrence remembered that when he visited Lincoln as a highly touted recruit. The 2006 Gatorade Kansas High School Player of the Year from Shawnee Mission West received scholarship offers from 10 different schools, including Nebraska and five others from the Big 12.

After cutting that group to his final two, it was those memories of NU being the team to beat that gave Lawrence the gut feeling to choose the Huskers over his brother's Jayhawks.

"That was one thing that stood out when I came up here," he said. "There's a reason why everyone in the nation wants to beat us."

A number of teams have in recent years, which is something Lawrence said he never could've imagined happening. Even Kansas, a team Nebraska owned for the better part of four decades, has had success against the Huskers.

Less than a year ago, the Jayhawks rolled past NU while having their best season ever. Nebraska, on the other hand, missed a bowl

game for the second time in four years and fired its head coach.

Still, it didn't make Lawrence regret his decision.

"Honestly, Kansas is still Kansas, and Nebraska is still Nebraska," he said. "This place has Memorial Stadium, the fans and the tradition. That's always going to be there. Currently, success is something we're building our way back up to."

Lawrence believes whole-heartedly that the Huskers are on the rise. And the second-year linebacker is itching to be a part of the revival.

This season has been a trying one, however, for the former prep all-stater. Not only is he behind transplanted I-back Cody Glenn on the depth chart at Will linebacker, but Lawrence has also watched true freshman Sean Fisher and walk-on Matt Holt get playing time that could've been his.

He's not bitter about it. Like everyone else in NU's loaded linebacker rotation, he just wants to play.

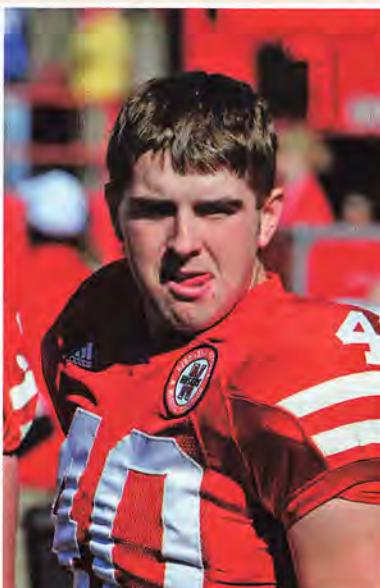
"I don't think you can sit back and be happy if you're not on the field," Lawrence said. "That's not a knock on the coaches or anything, but you're here to play football. We all are. If I would be happy not being out on the field, I'm in the wrong business."

"There are some frustrations with wanting and looking for an opportunity. But at the same time, the linebacker corps this year has really taken a step back because of the way this league has turned into a passing league. The opportunities are becoming a bit limited."

Nebraska linebackers coach Mike Ekeler said Lawrence and his other players are all in the same boat.

"Believe me, everybody wants to be out there," the NU assistant said. "There's great competition, but there's also great chemistry."

Lawrence is a big part of that, Ekeler said. Despite only being a sophomore, he's one of the few veterans in the group of talented, yet inexperienced players at linebacker.



**"TRUTH BE
told, I was never a
Nebraska fan. Growing
up, we always wanted to
beat the guys in red."**

**SOPHOMORE
BLAKE LAWRENCE**

CORNHUSKER CONVERT

"He's one of those guys who helps everybody out," Ekeler said. "We know there's only a certain amount of guys who can be out there on Saturdays at one time. As far as that group is concerned, everybody's out there. It's a selfless, selfless group."

Lawrence exemplifies that trait. In fact, he was the one who first helped Glenn when he was making the transition from offense. After spending three years at running back, the senior needed a crash course on defense. And Lawrence, a 2007 National High School Scholar-Athlete, was there to teach.

"Blake is a team-first guy," Glenn said. "He's never one to try to put himself before the team. He's really intelligent, and he really understands football. Some things the average person doesn't know, he knows."

"He knows how to use leverage or use technique to put himself in a better position to make plays. Using all of that, his brain and his athletic ability, makes him a lot better than most linebackers we have."

While that may be true, it hasn't translated into much playing time for Lawrence. After switching from Nebraska's Buck linebacker to the Will early in the fall, he seemed destined to be a big factor on the field. But it's yet to play out that way, especially with the Huskers playing a lot of nickel and dime packages against a number of spread offenses.

"It's been a learning experience," Lawrence said. "I'm preparing every day like I'm going to be the guy. I'm one twisted ankle away from being the starting linebacker."

"It's a special deal, but I am still battling. I want to try to improve myself every day throughout the season. I think the coaches have faith in me and understand that I can play when I need to. I'm just ready for my opportunity."

Ekeler seems to agree, calling Lawrence "a guy who packs his lunch pail every day and gets after it." The former Kansas State player said his pupil has been working his tail off.

"He's done everything we've asked from him," Ekeler said. "He's been backing up Cody in both base and nickel (defenses). He hasn't had a ton of reps, but yet he's done a

Ekeler seems to know what to say to each player in a given situation, Lawrence added. The best advice the coach can give him right now is to keep working hard and not to get discouraged.

"Shoot, the guy should be a redshirt freshman right now," Ekeler said. "He's just one year removed from high school. His best football is right in front of him."

In Lawrence's mind, however, that future can't come soon enough.

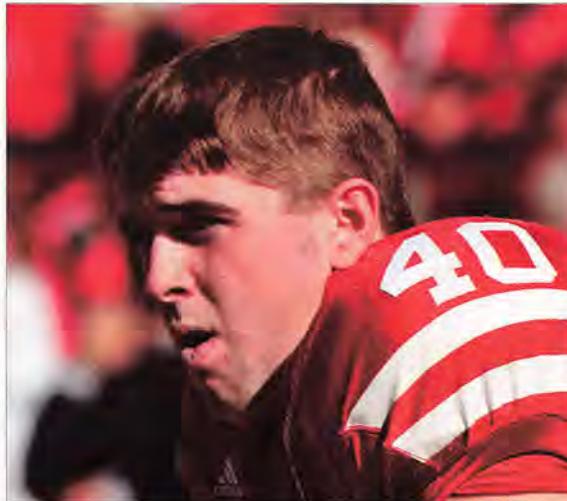
"There's a lot of 'want to' coming from me," he said. "I want to be out there every play. I want to be the go-to guy at the linebacker spot. I want to work on everything the coaches put in front of me, mastering it. Whatever I need to do to get on the field, I'm putting my goals towards."

"This offseason, I'm going to work my butt off to make sure I can be a guy that they can trust to be out there every snap. It's hard not being that guy this year, but I'm young and I've got a couple of more years ahead of me."

Lawrence, who foresees a bright future for the Huskers under new coach Bo Pelini, thinks those two years will be plenty of time to get the Nebraska program back to the level he's used to seeing it at - the level his brother's Kansas team has played at since Blake arrived in Lincoln.

"Every week of the year except for one, I'm a Kansas fan," he said. "I want my brother to have great success there. Last year was an amazing year for him. I'm so glad he got to be a part of that, and I hope it's something I get to be a part of here."

"Everyone wants to beat the team in red; that's what I was told growing up. And no one could beat them, ever since I was first watching football. I'm ready to return to that day, when no one could beat the Big Red." **N**



great job. And he knows he's only one play away from starting.

"He gets about the same amount of reps at practice that Cody gets. And he's a really, really sharp guy. He's working hard in the weight room to improve his strength and flexibility. And, as far as work ethic and being a team guy, you do wish they all were like Blake Lawrence."

The high praise between Ekeler and Lawrence goes both ways. The player said his coach, who is known for his never-ending supply of energy, has been a blessing to work with.

"You have to create your own energy when you see him," Lawrence said. "You can't walk in the room with him dull. He's going to be fired up no matter the situation. He's shown us that life can be fun. He understands football well, but he understands the players better."

Around the Horn



BRANDON BROWNE

WRESTLING Sibling rivalry extends off the mat

BY TOMMY DAHLK

Husker sophomore wrestler Cameron Browne has, in fact, beaten his brother and fellow Husker Brandon Browne in a wrestling match.

Just these wins didn't come on a mat.

"If I ever tried to jump him or something in backyard wrestling or something, he didn't have a chance," the 197-pound sophomore from Plattsmouth said.

His 174-pound brother, who was an All-American and finished fourth at the NCAA Championships last year, always gets the better of him in practice and boasts an undefeated lifetime record against his younger sibling.

Oh, and he'd let his brother know growing up. Despite always being much lighter, Brandon would do a little

antagonizing since he'd win.

"I always used to antagonize him and stuff," Brandon said. "But at the end, I'd run away like a little girl since he had so much weight on me."

In college the two still wrestle sometimes in practice. Like always, Brandon comes out on top.

Cameron redshirted last year and worked on technique. He planned to redshirt as a freshman, but injuries forced him into the lineup, and he wrestled as a heavyweight. In those matches, he gave up sometimes 60 or 70 pounds to his opponent and learned a lot.

Now, he's focused on competing for varsity time at his natural place behind All-American Craig Brester.

He said there is no one who could help him out more than his big brother, and he enjoys wrestling occasionally with him.

"It's OK considering he beats me every time I wrestle him, so I hate his guts for

that," Cameron said with a laugh. "There is no better wrestler I could practice with and learn from than him. He knows my style, and he's always got some piece of advice and tries to make me the best wrestler I can be. I can't be more grateful for that."

As a returning All-American, Brandon is giving other younger wrestlers support and is one of the leaders for a Husker team looking to win a national championship.

Brandon hopes to end his career with an individual title as well. Last year, he finished with a 35-4 record and won the Big 12 Conference title at 174 pounds.

After finishing fourth at the NCAA Tournament last year, Brandon said he's more familiar with what he's capable of and has done some fine-tuning all year.

"It's just tiny little mistakes that you make, and those are the things I'm working on," Brandon said. "I have all the moves and technique. Just putting everything together and focusing on being more aggressive this year." **N**

2008-09 WRESTLING SCHEDULE

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Fri, Nov. 7 | *Wrestle-Offs, 6 p.m. |
| Thu, Nov. 20 | Tennessee-Chattanooga, 7 p.m. |
| Sat, Nov. 22 | Kaufman-Brand Open, Omaha, 9 a.m. |
| Fri, Nov. 28 | Augustana (S.D.), 4 p.m. |
| Fri, Nov. 28 | Oregon State, 6 p.m. |
| Fri, Dec. 5-6 | at Las Vegas Invitational, 11 a.m. |
| Sat, Dec. 20 | Kent State, 2 p.m. |
| Sun, Dec. 21 | Minnesota, 2 p.m. |
| Sun, Jan. 04 | Northern Colorado, Noon |
| Sun, Jan. 04 | Michigan, 4 p.m. |
| Jan. 10-11 | at NWCA National Duals, 9 a.m. Cedar Falls, Iowa |
| Sun, Jan. 18 | South Dakota State, 2 p.m. |
| Sun, Jan. 18 | Maryland, 4 p.m. |
| Fri, Jan. 23 | Penn, 7 p.m. |
| Sun, Jan. 25 | Virginia Tech, 11 a.m. at Mount Pleasant, Mich. |
| Sun, Jan. 25 | Central Michigan, 1 p.m. at Mount Pleasant, Mich. |
| Sat, Jan. 31 | at Missouri, 2 p.m. |
| Thu, Feb. 5 | Oklahoma State, 7 p.m. |
| Sun, Feb. 8 | at Oklahoma, 2 p.m. |
| Sat, Feb. 14 | at North Carolina, 11 a.m. |
| Sat, Feb. 14 | UNC Greensboro, 1 p.m. at Chapel Hill, N.C. |
| Sun, Feb. 22 | Iowa State (Senior Day), 2 p.m. |
| Sat, Mar. 7 | Big 12 Championships, 11 a.m. NU Coliseum |
| Mar. 19-21 | NCAA Championships, TBA at St. Louis, Mo. |

*Match held at Bob Devaney Sports Center.
All other home matches at the Nebraska Coliseum.

HUSKER QUICK HITS

FINISHED UNTIL FEBRUARY

The Nebraska baseball team finished fall practice with an 8-6, 10-inning victory against Iowa in an exhibition game at Iowa City in mid-October.

CODY NEER went 2-for-5 with a solo home run to lead the Cornhuskers' 10-hit attack, while **JAKE MORT** and **DJ BELFONTE** each drove in two runs.

Nebraska used 10 pitchers, all but four who were available for the exhibition, and they allowed just five singles. Starter **MIKE NESSETH**, a sophomore right-hander from Windom, Minn., and the leading candidate to be the No. 1 starter in the spring, worked two hitless and scoreless innings, allowing only one ball to be hit out of the infield.

Two days before, Neer went 3-for-4 for the Red team in a 5-4 victory in the annual Red-White intrasquad series played at Lincoln's Sherman Field.

The first game of the series was rained out.

ADAM BAILEY, a junior right fielder who transferred from South Mountain (Ariz.) Community College, hit a bottom-of-the-eighth-inning home run to break a 4-4 tie for the victory. Two batters earlier, Belfonte homered to tie the score. **NICK SULLIVAN**'s two-out, three-run home run in the seventh had given the Whites a 4-1 lead. **CADE THOMPSON**, a junior transfer from Central Arizona College, went 2-for-4 for the White team.

The Cornhuskers also used 10 pitchers in the Red-White game, which was played in a strong wind blowing out, with sophomore right-hander **CASEY HAUPTMANN**, earning the victory, striking out three in the final two innings in relief.

Nebraska is scheduled to resume practice Feb. 1.

SPLIT IN OKLAHOMA

The Husker soccer team divided a pair of matches in Oklahoma, defeating the Sooners 1-0 at Norman and then losing to No. 9-ranked Oklahoma State two days later at Stillwater, 2-1. Junior defender **CARLY PEETZ** scored a goal on a header in the 72nd minute to give Nebraska its first road victory of the season. Freshman

forward **MOLLY THOMAS** scored her fifth goal of the season but it wasn't enough against Oklahoma State.

Coach **JOHN WALKER**'s team went into its final regular-season match at Iowa State on Halloween with a 9-8-1 record overall, including 5-4-0 in Big 12 play.

GET OUT THE VOTE

Fans can help the Orange Bowl Committee select its all-time Orange Bowl team and two coaches by voting on the Miami Herald Web site: www.miamiherald.com/contests. Voting will continue through Nov. 30. Information about candidates' accomplishments and statistics can be found on the Orange Bowl's 75th Anniversary site: <http://75orangebowl.org>.

Nebraska has played in the Orange Bowl game 17 times, most recently at the end of the 1997 season, when the Cornhuskers defeated Tennessee and Peyton Manning 42-17 in coach Tom Osborne's final game to earn a share of the national championship.

Orange Bowl appearances (game date, not season):

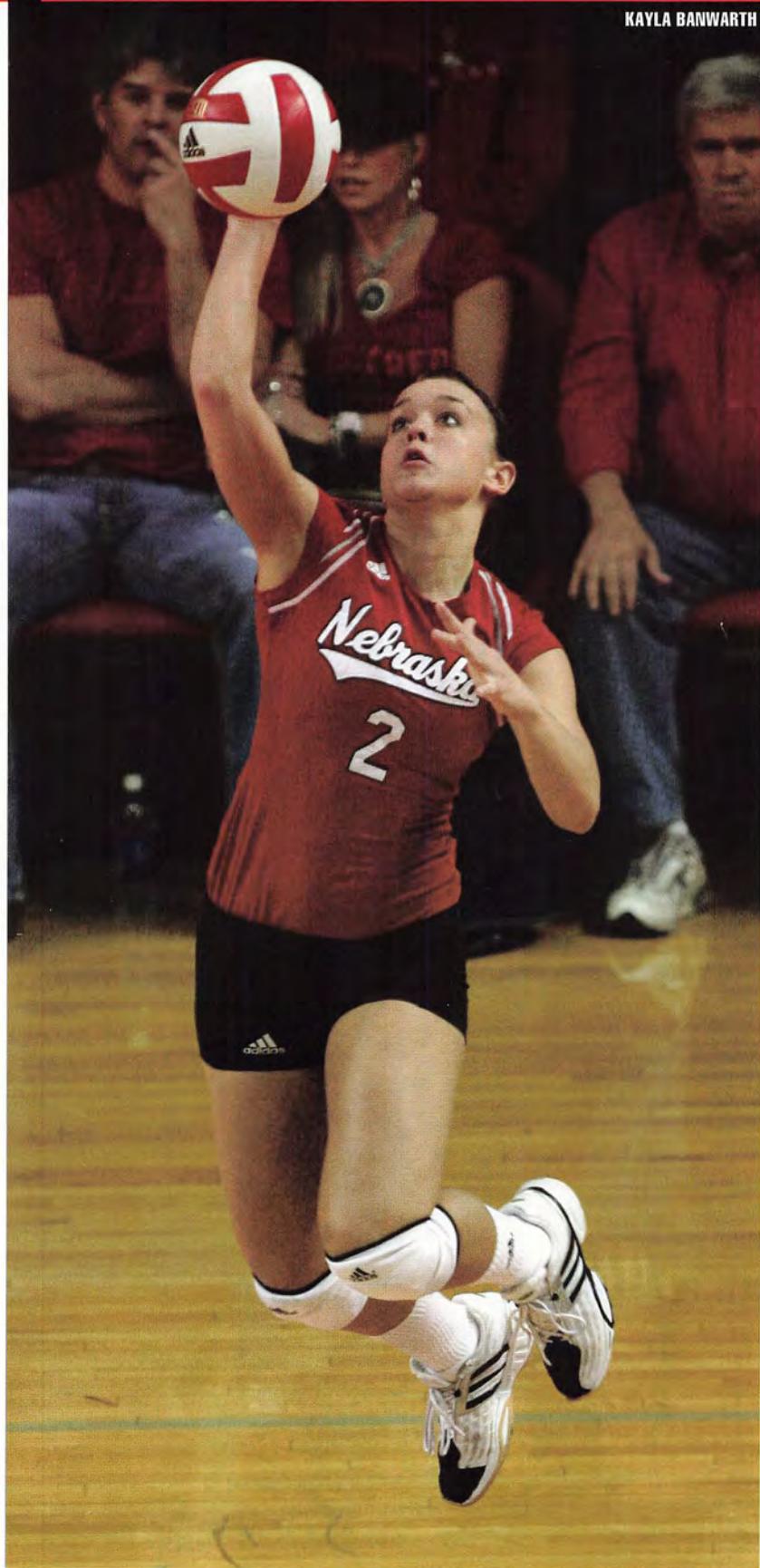
| | | |
|-------|-------|------------------------|
| 1955: | ..... | Duke, 7-34 |
| 1964: | ..... | Auburn, 13-7 |
| 1966: | ..... | Alabama, 28-39 |
| 1971: | ..... | Louisiana State, 17-12 |
| 1972: | ..... | Alabama, 38-6 |
| 1973: | ..... | Notre Dame, 40-6 |
| 1979: | ..... | Oklahoma, 24-31 |
| 1982: | ..... | Clemson, 15-22 |
| 1983: | ..... | Louisiana State, 21-20 |
| 1984: | ..... | Miami, 30-31 |
| 1989: | ..... | Miami, 3-23 |
| 1992: | ..... | Miami, 0-22 |
| 1993: | ..... | Florida State, 14-27 |
| 1994: | ..... | Florida State, 16-18 |
| 1995: | ..... | Miami, 24-17 |
| 1996: | ..... | Virginia Tech, 41-21 |
| 1998: | ..... | Tennessee, 42-17 |

SINGLES TITLE

Wiveca Swarting, a junior on the Husker women's tennis team, won the ITA Central Regional Tournament singles Main Draw title in Salt Lake City. Swarting defeated two ranked opponents, then won the title when Arkansas' Anouk Tigu defaulted. Swarting is set to play in the National Indoor Tournament at Charlottesville, Va. Nov. 6-9.

Volleyball

KAYLA BANWARTH



BY BOB HAMAR

"KGB" emerging as top libero

Kayla Banwarth has been called "KGB" since her days at Dubuque Wahlert High School in Dubuque, Iowa.

It started with her softball team, but the nickname has nothing to do with her softball playing or the fact that she was a Volleyball

Magazine Fab 50 selection as a senior.

The nickname comes from her own given name: Kayla Grace Banwarth.

"I don't mind it," Banwarth said. "There's not much you can do with 'Kayla'. I'll take KGB."

Nebraska coach John Cook will take KGB any day too. Banwarth moved into the Husker starting lineup at libero late last season as a freshman and has been there ever since. This year she has gotten better and better.

"Kayla is really emerging as one of the top liberos in the country," Cook said.

As far as Cook is concerned Banwarth is playing like an All-American.

"I watched the Stanford-Washington match and they're talking about the Washington libero made third-team All-American," Cook said. "I think Kayla is playing at that level. Now will she get recognized? I don't know."

There are several factors that go into Banwarth's success at libero. None may be more important than her experience as a setter in club volleyball. That experience allows the Huskers to run a very affective offense through Banwarth

when they are out of system.

"That's something we liked with Kayla is she's a former setter," Cook said. "They just understand bettering the ball. That's what a setter's job is."

Banwarth also understands how important her experience as a setter is to the Huskers.

"It helps a lot because when the setter digs the ball, I'm the one they want to set," Banwarth said. "Having had setting experience really helps a lot. It helps me know where to set and whether to two-shoot or not. It's really good to have that experience."

Senior Jordan Larson certainly appreciates Banwarth's setting ability from the back row. She remembers what former setter turned libero Dani Busboom contributed to the 2006 national championship team.

"A lot of teams struggle with that," Larson said. "When some teams get out of system they don't really know what to do. For instance last year we'd pass to the middle and the middle would set our outsides, if that makes any sense."

"I think Coach Cook said it. Any more we're going to try and get a libero who can set as well. I mean Dani Busboom set three years here and look at our out of system plays. It's really key to kind of stay in system when we're out of system. It kind of sets us at ease a little bit."

Banwarth is also a threat when she two-shoots the ball across the net from the back row. That just gives the Huskers another weapon.

"That's why it's hard to defend us," Larson said. "There are things coming from every where. I mean Kayla two-shoots half way across the court. That's just incredible."

Banwarth was an outside hitter in high school, and some smaller schools recruited her as an outside hitter. But at 5-foot-10 she wasn't going to play that position at a volleyball power like Nebraska.

Although she still misses hitting at times, she's all settled in at libero.

"I love playing libero," Banwarth said. "I love playing defense. I love having that attitude on the court and being able to dig balls. I'm happy with the position I'm in."

Banwarth played the first part of last season as a defensive specialist, but Cook

decided to move her to libero late in the year. It wasn't easy for her playing with All-Americans on each side. This year Banwarth is much more comfortable with her position and the teammates around her.

"Really my confidence has gone up since last year," Banwarth said. "Last year I was thrown into the fire with All-Americans on either side of me. It was a difficult position to be in. This year I'm more comfortable with the people around me. We have better chemistry. My confidence level is definitely up this year."

That shows in her play on the court. Through 20 matches, Banwarth was averaging 4.38 digs per 25-point set. That compares favorably to 2006 when Busboom averaged 5.04 digs per 30-point set.

Cook says Banwarth's passing has been extraordinary. It's just part of what makes her the player she is.

"The first thing is she's passing at the highest level of any player we've ever had here," Cook said. "The second thing is she does a great job defensively, which everybody sees. The third thing is we can run an offense when she sets the ball."

"The fourth thing is she just really takes charge when we're in chaos. That's what we wanted from her last year, but she wasn't quite ready for it. This year everybody knows when the ball is in her hands, the ball is going to get better."

COOK VISITS UCLA

Cook took a time out from his season to travel with his daughter, Lauren, to visit UCLA on Oct. 26. Lauren, a senior setter at Lincoln Pius X, plans to sign with the Bruins in November as one of the top recruits in the nation.

John Cook was there as a father, not as a coach.

"It was a great experience," he said. "I could tell everybody was a little uncomfortable at first, but it was a great experience. I've never even been to UCLA, but to go through it as a parent just made me see the other side of it and it made me think about how we do our business here."

This just in: Lauren Cook and UCLA will

be back in Lincoln next fall for the Players' Challenge.

STREAK EXTENDED

On Oct. 22, the NU Coliseum was sold out for the 114th straight time. That's the longest sellout streak for any NCAA women's sport. The old mark was held by the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team.

The Huskers have now sold out every match since Sept. 26, 2001. Larson said the players appreciate all the support from the fans.

"We truly want to thank the fans," Larson said. "Like this year, the tickets sold out in 10 minutes. You are not going to get that anywhere else. That's why I wanted to come to Nebraska because sports mean a lot. People rally around them and feel a part of them. Our team is truly blessed to have such a following." **N**

2008 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

(19-1, 11-1 BIG 12)

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Aug. 29-31 | Runza/AVCA Showcase |
| Aug. 29 | *Stanford, W, 3-0 |
| Aug. 31 | *USC, W, 3-1 |
| Sept. 1 | Oral Roberts, W 3-0 |
| Sept. 5-6 | Cal Poly Invite |
| Sept. 5 | Tulane, W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 6 | Cal Poly, W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 12-13 | Ameritas Players Challenge |
| Sept. 12 | LSU, W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 13 | New Mexico, W, 3-0 |
| Sept. 17 | at Kansas State, W, 3-1 |
| Sept. 20 | Texas, W, 3-1 |
| Sept. 24 | Kansas, W, 3-1 |
| Sept. 27 | at Iowa State, W, 3-1 |
| Oct. 1 | at Texas Tech, W, 3-0 |
| Oct. 4 | Colorado, W, 3-0 |
| Oct. 5 | *Creighton, W, 3-0 |
| Oct. 8 | Oklahoma, W, 3-0 |
| Oct. 12 | at Missouri, W, 3-0 |
| Oct. 15 | Baylor, W, 3-0 |
| Oct. 22 | Texas A&M, W, 3-0 |
| Oct. 25 | at Oklahoma, W, 3-0 |
| Oct. 29 | at Colorado, L, 1-3 |
| Nov. 1 | Iowa State, 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 5 | at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 8 | Kansas State, TBA |
| Nov. 12 | Missouri, 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 15 | at Kansas, TBA |
| Nov. 19 | at Texas, 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 22 | Texas Tech, 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 29 | at Baylor, 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 5-6 | NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA |
| Dec. 12-13 | *NCAA Regionals |
| Dec. 18-20 | *NCAA Semifinals, Finals * at Quest Center, Omaha |

Basketball

DOMINIQUE KELLEY



BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Kelley sheds freshman jitters

It seems Connie Yori can't go anywhere with Dominique Kelley without somebody approaching Kelley and striking up a conversation.

For that reason, Yori, the Nebraska women's basketball coach, came up with a nickname for her sophomore guard, who's from Lincoln.

"I call her the mayor," Yori said, "because everybody in Lincoln knows her."

That's just not because Kelley plays basketball for the Huskers and might be easily recognized by fans, either. Many of these people know Kelley first-hand, and Yori noticed Kelley's popularity long before she put on a Nebraska uniform.

"That was one of the neat things when I was recruiting her," Yori said, "is how many people came to me and said, 'Oh, I heard you are recruiting Dominique,' and, 'I know her from this church group,' or, 'I know her from school, I know someone who knows her, she was over at my house last week.'

"I mean, it was phenomenal how many times that was actually said to me."

Like the time Yori was attending a high school state tournament in Colorado and met somebody who babysat Kelley.

At least, that's what Yori told Kelley.

"She was extremely serious about it," Kelley said, hesitant to believe the story. "She always has these crazy stories."

As for the nickname?

"She's always hung up on that," Kelley said, smiling. "We run into people, and sometimes it's not like one person, it happens to be, coincidentally, three or four people, so she thinks I know everybody."

"But I'm really not the mayor."

Kelley is, however, from Lincoln, which makes her a local fan favorite. It helps that Kelley, a 5-7 guard and one of four returning starters, had a strong freshman season. She ranked eighth among all Big 12 freshmen last season in scoring (6.4 points per game), and was third among freshmen in assists (two per game).

"To be from Lincoln and play and have that fan base, it's really nice," said Kelley, a Lincoln Northeast graduate. "It's made my transition to college, both on the court and off the court, a lot easier."

It's also come with high expectations that Kelley admits created a burden for her last season.

"It's been a lot to live up to," she said. "Last year, I felt a lot of pressure, and I expressed that to Coach a little bit. It was new to me. I started, and I had games where I played really well, and then I had games where I didn't feel like I did anything right."

Still, Kelley set a Nebraska record by starting all 33 games as a true freshman. She shot 43.9 percent from the field, including 37.8 percent from 3-point range, and was a 71.6 percent free-throw shooter.

Now, Yori said she's seeing the normal transition any player has from her freshman to sophomore season.

"Last year, she was trying to figure things out – a typical freshman, the game was a little fast for her," Yori said. "She didn't fully play like she's capable of with her aggressiveness she played with at the high school level. She's been much more aggressive in practice. Just her ability to pick things up has been great."

Kelley said she's feeling more aggressive, too. She can tell by how much more she's been shooting in practice. She said she didn't do that last season.

"I'm feeling a lot more confident," Kelley said. "I feel really good about what I did in the off-season. I was dedicated to it, I was determined. I don't know if I was ever, at any moment, really playing with confidence (last season), and I feel like I have that right now."

While only a sophomore, Kelley exudes leadership qualities that can help a team that has only one senior, Kelsey Griffin.

"Dominique is a great leader for somebody who's as young as she is," Yori said. "She's a whole package kid. She's a good person, she's a good communicator, she works very hard, and she's a leader by example, and she's a leader vocally."

"She's very, very real. She's a very real kid. She is who she portrays herself to be. People love her, and I love coaching her."

GRiffin's STATUS UNCLEAR

Kelsey Griffin, a two-time first-team All-Big 12 Conference forward, suffered a bone bruise 10 weeks ago that has shown little signs of improvement.

Yori said there's a possibility Griffin could



wait as late as the beginning of the Big 12 Conference season before beginning her season, if healthy enough.

"I'm not sure," Yori said. "We haven't decided right now where that line is going to be drawn. It's really about how much progress she makes. If we see dramatic progress, and it's the middle of December, and she's 100 percent healthy, well, it might make sense to play her."

Griffin, who changed majors, has another year of school remaining, making her return for another season almost certain, if she does redshirt. Griffin averaged 15.3 points and 7.2 rebounds last season.

HILL, EIKMEIER IN MIX

Two Nebraska natives are vying for playing time at other Big 12 Conference schools this season.

At Texas, sophomore Matt Hill, a Lincoln Southeast graduate, is fully healthy after missing last season with a foot injury.

"There is no doubt he'll be in our rotation," Texas coach Rick Barnes said at Big 12 men's basketball media day.

The 6-10, 241-pound Hill had surgery on his left heel Dec. 21 and received a medical redshirt. He's in his third year at Texas, he's listed as a sophomore.

"There is no one on our team we are pulling for more than Matt Hill," Barnes said. "Matt's a real tough kid. He's going to help us. I think the speed of the game right now, he's getting back to it, the pace of it. For what he's been through, he's done a really nice job."

Another Nebraska native, Archbishop Bergan High School graduate Wes Eikmeier, will contribute as a freshman at Iowa State, coach Greg McDermott said.

"His ability to take the ball to the basket is probably a little farther advanced than I would've anticipated at this point in his career," McDermott said. "And defensively, for his slight build, he does a pretty good job. That's going to be the issue until he can build his body and get a little bit stronger." **N**



PERFECTION: UNDEFEATED, UNTIED, UNSCORED UPON - "Bummy" Booth's 1902 team, officially nicknamed Cornhuskers, was 9-0, and all nine victories were shutouts, Nebraska outscoring the opposition 159-0. The Cornhuskers were halfway through a 24-game winning streak that began in November of 1901 and ended with a 6-0 loss at Colorado in early October of 1904. Nineteen of the 24 victories were shutouts. **Backs (left to right):** Johnny Bender (Sutton, Neb.), HB; Maurice Benedict (Lincoln, Neb.), QB; Oliver Mickel (Chihuahua, Mexico), FB; Johnny Bell (Hastings, Neb.), HB. **Linemen (left to right):** Spencer Cortelyou (Westminster, Colo.), E; John Westover (West Point, Neb.), T; Fred Hunter (Blue Rapids, Kan.), G; Charles Borg (Omaha, Neb.), C; Dean Ringer (Lincoln, Neb.), G; Cy Mason (Lincoln, Neb.), T; Charles Shedd, Jr. (Fairfield, Neb.), E.

Westover was the team's captain. Bender, nicknamed the "Sutton Comet," and Ringer each earned five football letters.

BOB DEVANEY'S FIRST SEASON

Game 10, Nov. 24, 1962 at Owen Field, Norman, Okla.

Oklahoma 34, Nebraska 6

| | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|----|---|---|----|
| Nebraska | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | - | 6 |
| Oklahoma | 7 | 7 | 14 | 6 | - | 34 |

- (O) Jim Grisham 1 run (Butch Metcalf kick)
- (O) John Porterfield 22 pass Monte Deere (Metcalf kick)
- (O) Porterfield 24 pass Deere (Metcalf kick)
- (O) Al Baumgardner 26 pass Deere (Metcalf kick)
- (N) Mike Eager 11 pass Dennis Claridge (pass failed)
- (O) Gary Wylie 14 pass Norman Smith (kick failed)

Attendance: 58,268

After the game, Oklahoma coach Bud Wilkinson visited the Nebraska locker room, and Bob Devaney said, with good humor, he thought they had a gentleman's agreement against passing the way the Sooners had. Actually, they didn't throw a lot, just effectively. Quarterback Monte Deere completed 8-of-12 passes for 168 yards and three touchdowns. Oklahoma wasted no time in scoring. Nebraska's first possession ended in disaster when Sooner defensive end John Flynn blocked Jim Baffico's punt, and Newt Burton recovered at the Nebraska 1-yard line. Oklahoma's second touchdown came on a 12-play, 70-yard drive, and its third touchdown drive included a play that went from Deere to running back Joe Don Looney and back to Deere, who passed down the field to Flynn for a 40-yard gain.

DEVANEY: "We've got to go out and recruit. We've got to get boys who can get the job done."

DID YOU KNOW? On the Friday night before the game, 1,500 paid to watch a pro wrestling match between Don Leo Jonathan and Pat O'Connor at Pershing Auditorium in Lincoln. On Saturday afternoon, 5,251 (capacity was 6,500) paid to watch a closed-circuit telecast of the Nebraska-Oklahoma game at Pershing Auditorium. The game was shown on four 10'-by-14' screens.

TOM OSBORNE'S FIRST SEASON

Game 10, Nov. 17, 1973 at Memorial Stadium

Nebraska 50, Kansas State 21

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Nebraska | 10 | 13 | 7 | 20 | - | 50 |
| Kansas State | 0 | 0 | 14 | 7 | - | 21 |

- (N) Rich Sanger 30 field goal
- (N) Tony Davis 6 run (Sanger kick)
- (N) Dave Humm 1 run (Sanger kick)
- (N) Davis 4 run (kick blocked)
- (KS) Isaac Jackson 29 run (Keith Brumley kick)
- (KS) Jackson 1 run (Brumley kick)
- (N) John O'Leary 5 run (Sanger kick)
- (KS) Fred Rothwell 52 run (Brumley kick)
- (N) Davis 4 run (Sanger kick)
- (N) Dave Shamblin 31 pass Steve Runty (Sanger kick)
- (N) Earl Everett 36 run (kick blocked)

Attendance: 42,000



With Oklahoma next on the schedule, Nebraska might have been looking ahead. But the numbers indicated otherwise. The Cornhuskers rolled up 612 yards of offense, just 16 short of the school record, set in a 50-0 victory against Hawaii in 1954. Nebraska rushed for 434 yards, with two Cornhuskers running for 100 or more yards in the same game for the first time in school history. Tony Davis rushed for 111 yards and three touchdowns on 21 carries, and John O'Leary rushed for 100 yards and one touchdown on 17 carries. Fullback Ralph Powell came close as well, with 89 yards on only eight carries.

OSBORNE: "I think we were ready to play. We were worried about Kansas State. We respected them, and I don't think we were looking past them."

DID YOU KNOW? On Saturday night, during a one-hour-plus televised appearance before the Associated Press Managing Editors Association, President Richard Nixon asserted: "I'm not a crook." With the victory, Nebraska clinched a bid from the Cotton Bowl to play Texas on New Year's Day. Because NCAA rules prohibited bids from being extended until after 6 p.m. that day, the Cornhuskers got it officially on a tape-recording that they watched on the bus ride back to Lincoln.

CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

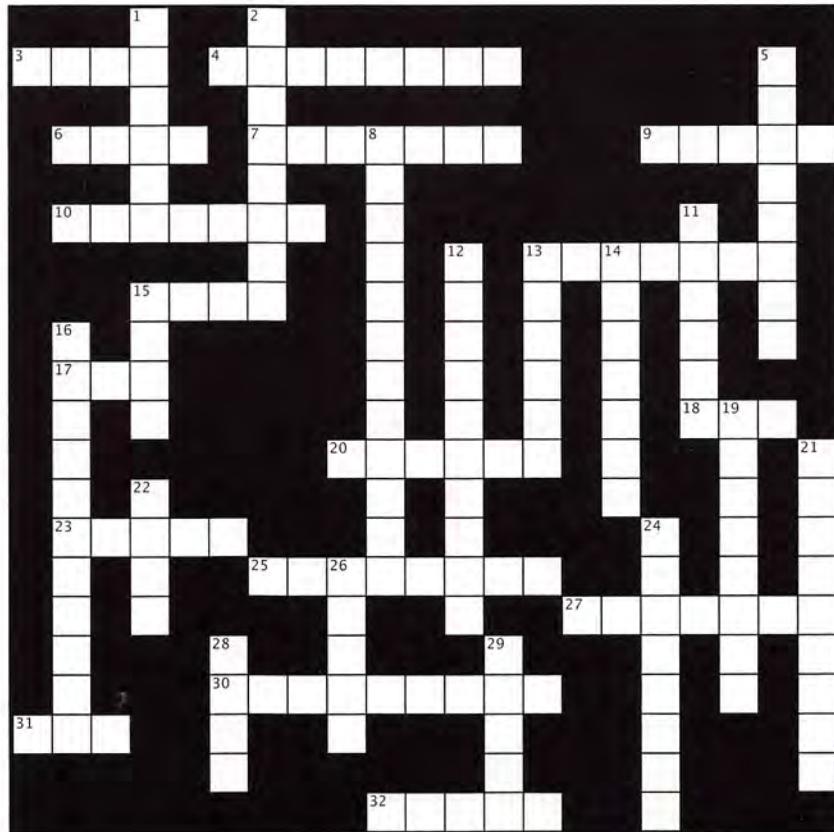
ACROSS

- Frank Solich's current school
- Kansas nickname
- Redshirt freshman quarterback
- Kansas quarterback
- Holder for place-kicks
- Kansas head coach
- 1993 Butkus Award winner
- Kansas school color
- Network for NU-Colorado telecast
- Number of victories needed to be bowl eligible
- KU's bowl game after 2007 season
- Career leader in receptions
- Mark Mangino's former school
- Recruiting coordinator
- Cornerback with sack vs. Baylor
- Sophomore quarterback
- True freshman quarterback

Down

- Associate head coach
- Kansas campus location
- 1971 Outland Trophy winner
- First team to defeat KU this season
- Wears No. 1
- Non-conference opponent in 2010
- Safety with sack vs. Baylor
- Turner Gill's current school
- NU assistant formerly at Kansas
- Nov. 15 opponent
- Joe Ganz's home state
- Wears No. 11
- Scored NU's first TD vs. Baylor
- Pierre Allen's home state
- Leading rusher vs. Baylor
- Wears No. 28
- 2009 quarterback recruit

Answers will appear in Nov. 15 issue



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NOVEMBER 1 CROSSWORD SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

No suspense, relaxing in contest

FOR THE BETTER PART of 15 minutes, if something could go wrong for Nebraska, it did.

And when something did go wrong, Oklahoma capitalized.

That was the story of the first quarter of Nebraska's 62-28 loss against the Sooners. The game fit into the series' rich tradition, all right, the series as it was in the 1940's and 1950's, when Oklahoma won 16 in a row, by scores such as 48-0 (1949), 55-7 (1954) and 54-6 (1956).

Those wishing the schools played every season instead twice every four years under the Big 12's divisional structure weren't arguing for the sort of thing that happened at Owen Field.

By the time the Cornhuskers ran their sixth play from scrimmage, 5 minutes and 38 seconds into the game, they trailed 28-0. Their first five plays were these:

* Joe Ganz pass intercepted and returned for a touchdown;

* Marlon Lucky 3-yard gain;
* Ganz pass to Drew Young for 9 yards and a lost fumble at the Oklahoma 48;

* Lucky 3-yard gain;
* Ganz pass intercepted and returned to the Cornhusker 9-yard line.

So much for suspense. Those in the pressbox were asking if the monitors could be switched from ESPN's telecast to ABC's telecast of Texas-Texas Tech. (They could not.)

Instead of the distraction the game in Lubbock would have provided, reporters had no choice but to watch what the crowd of 85,212 was watching, a day-late horror

show for Nebraska fans.

Halloween, remember, was the previous night.

After the fourth touchdown, the Cornhuskers finally slowed down Oklahoma, sort of, forcing a punt before the Sooners scored its fifth touchdown, this time on a 10-play, 97-yard drive.

The first quarter ended 35-0.

The first "Boomer Sooner" came 9 seconds into the game after DeMarco Murray returned the opening kickoff 62 yards, only to have a personal foul reduce it by 15 yards.

No matter. Seven plays later, Chris Brown carried the ball into the end zone for another "Boomer Sooner" and a round of fireworks exploding above the scoreboard at the stadium's north end.

The Sooner schooner made a circuit, rolling out of a tunnel in the northeast corner, the first of nine for the night. The two horses pulling the schooner must have been leg weary by the end.

Oklahoma's Matt Moreland must have been, too. Moreland handled the kickoffs, his first four coming in a span of just under 3 minutes during the first quarter.

"I've been in a lot of games. I've seen it happen," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "The snowball started rolling on us and we didn't do anything to get it stopped."

It was shades of the Cornhuskers' 73-36 loss at Kansas last season, except that no one quit. After what happened in the first quarter, Nebraska could have checked in. But it didn't.

If anything positive came from the game,

it was that the Cornhuskers kept scrapping.

"I do appreciate the way the football team didn't quit. They kept playing hard," said Pelini. "But I would expect nothing less from these guys. It's disappointing. I can't tell you."

"I'm embarrassed for . . . I'm just not used to this. I take responsibility, once again. I'm the guy who's the head coach here. And that's how I see it."

Pelini also was the team's spokesman afterward. Players were off-limits to reporters "because I'm the voice. I'm responsible for what happened out there," he said. "I'm the voice of this team. I told our guys Oklahoma's over. We're moving on. So I'm not talking about it."

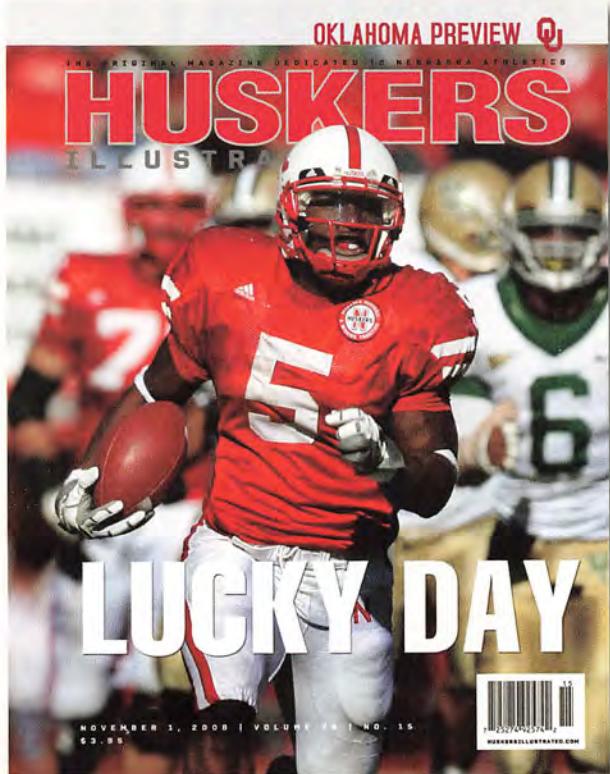
"They're not available. Is that enough said? It's over. I'm the voice tonight. I want our guys moving onto the next game. It's a three-game season now. There's nothing we can do about what happened at Oklahoma, and I don't want them talking about it. We're moving on."

Two of the three remaining regular-season games are at home, against Kansas and Colorado. The other is on the road, against Kansas State. All three are winnable if the Cornhuskers can regroup from the embarrassment of what happened in Norman on an unseasonably warm No. 1 night.

After falling behind 28-0, "I was telling them to relax, to keep going. 'Let's keep playing, let's keep playing.' I've never been quite a part of one that started off that bad," Pelini said. "It takes the wind out of your sails, it really does. You need a psychologist better than me to fix that that fast." **N**

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The collage includes a screenshot of the Huskers Illustrated website homepage with a 'FREE TRIAL!' offer, a 'COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF' clock, and various news and message board sections. Another screenshot shows a forum post featuring a photo of a player. A third screenshot shows a 'MESSAGE BOARDS' section with a post from 'Red Sea-Scout'. A fourth screenshot shows a 'THE TICKER' section with real-time news. A fifth screenshot shows a 'SPECIAL OFFER!' section for an 'Ultimate Ticket Annual' that includes a year of Sports Illustrated. In the foreground, a copy of Sports Illustrated magazine is displayed with the headline 'Year of the Freshman'.